CROSSGEN COMICS
1 MAY
$2.95
$4.50 CAN
www.crossgen.com
CROSSGEN
Mark Waid • Steve Epting • Rick Magyar • Frank D'Armata

WITHOUT WARNING...

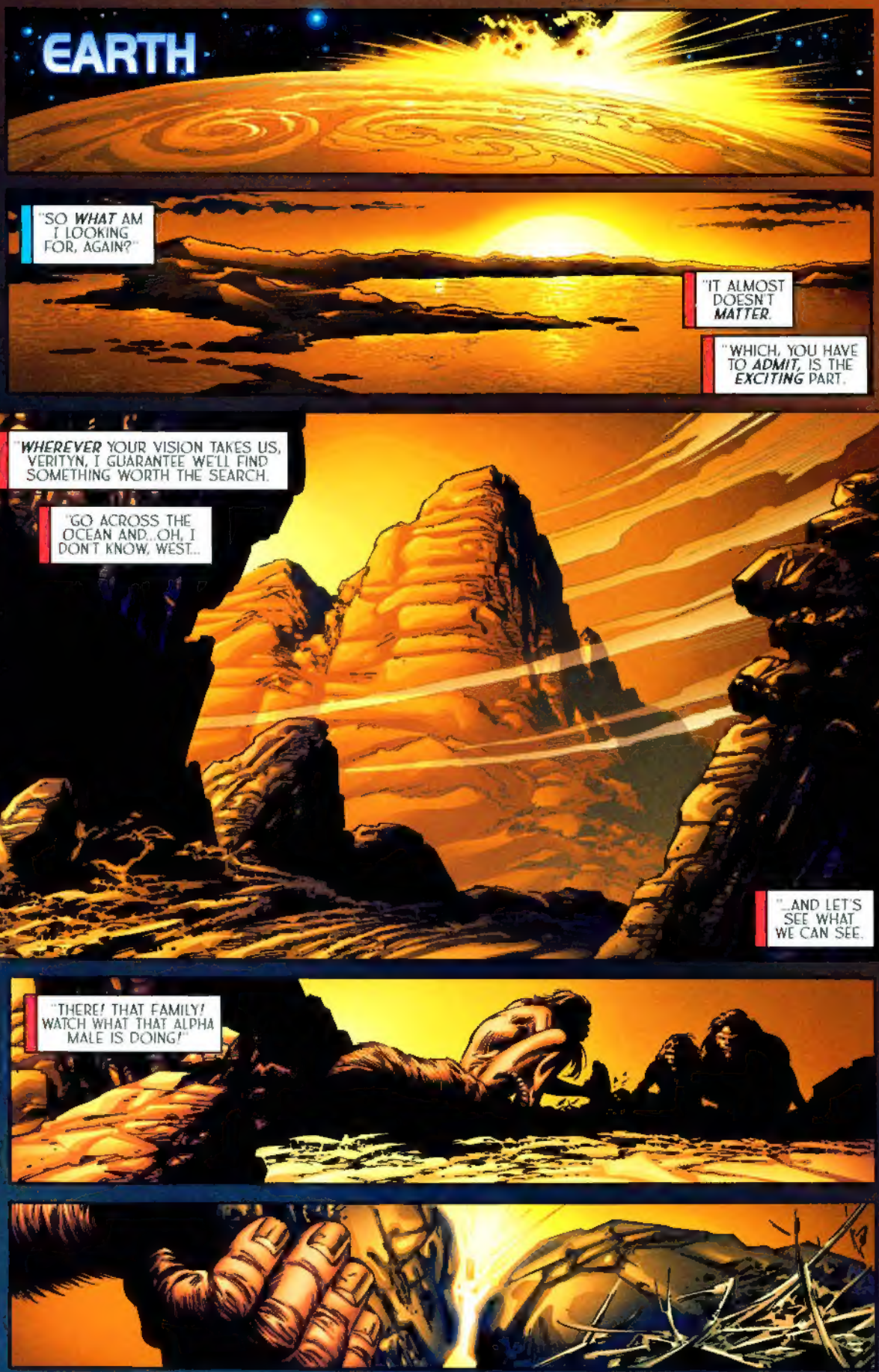
WITHOUT PREPARATION...

six survivors of a forgotten race find themselves the galaxy's first, last and only line of defense against a merciless alien threat. Dreamers, artists and scholars all, they are ill-equipped for battle, but if they are to survive, they must quickly rise to the challenge now before them. Victory – or gruesome death – rests upon the speed with which they can unravel a series of mysteries, beginning with this one:

WHERE ARE THEY?

Crux™ Vol. 1, Issue 1, MAY 2001 * FIRST PRINTING. Published by CrossGeneration Comics, Inc. Office of publication: 4023 Tampa Road, Suite 2400, Oldsmar, Florida 34677. **CrossGen®, CrossGen Comics®** and **CrossGeneration Comics®** are registered trademarks of CrossGeneration Comics, Inc. **Crux™, the CrossGen sigil™**, and all prominent characters are ™ and © 2001 CrossGeneration Comics, Inc. All rights reserved. The entire contents of this book are ™ and © 2001 CrossGeneration Comics, Inc. The stories, incidents, and characters in this publication are fictional. Any similarities to persons living or dead are purely coincidental. With the exception of artwork used for review purposes, none of the contents of this book may be reproduced in any form without the express written consent of CrossGeneration Comics, Inc. PRINTED IN CANADA.

400,000 B.C.

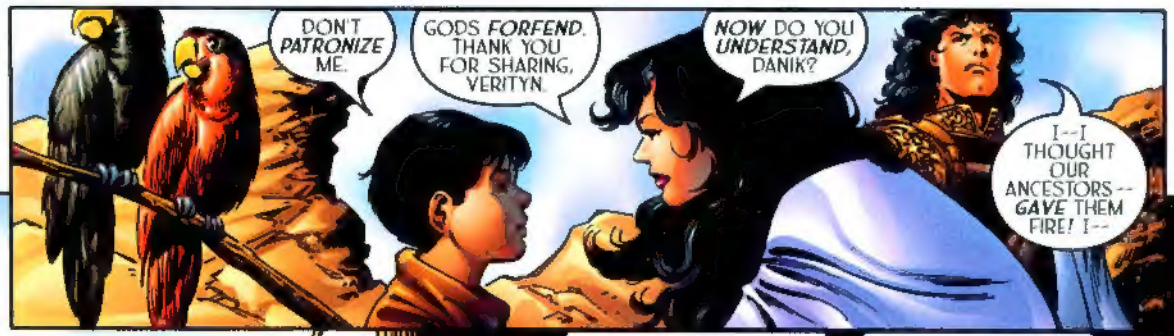

EARTH
"SO *WHAT* AM I LOOKING FOR, AGAIN?"
"IT ALMOST DOESN'T *MATTER*.
"WHICH, YOU HAVE TO *ADMIT*, IS THE *EXCITING* PART.
"*WHEREVER* YOUR VISION TAKES US, VERITYN, I GUARANTEE WE'LL FIND SOMETHING WORTH THE SEARCH.
"GO ACROSS THE OCEAN AND...OH, I DON'T KNOW, WEST...
"...AND LET'S SEE WHAT WE CAN SEE.
"THERE! THAT FAMILY! WATCH WHAT THAT ALPHA MALE IS DOING!"

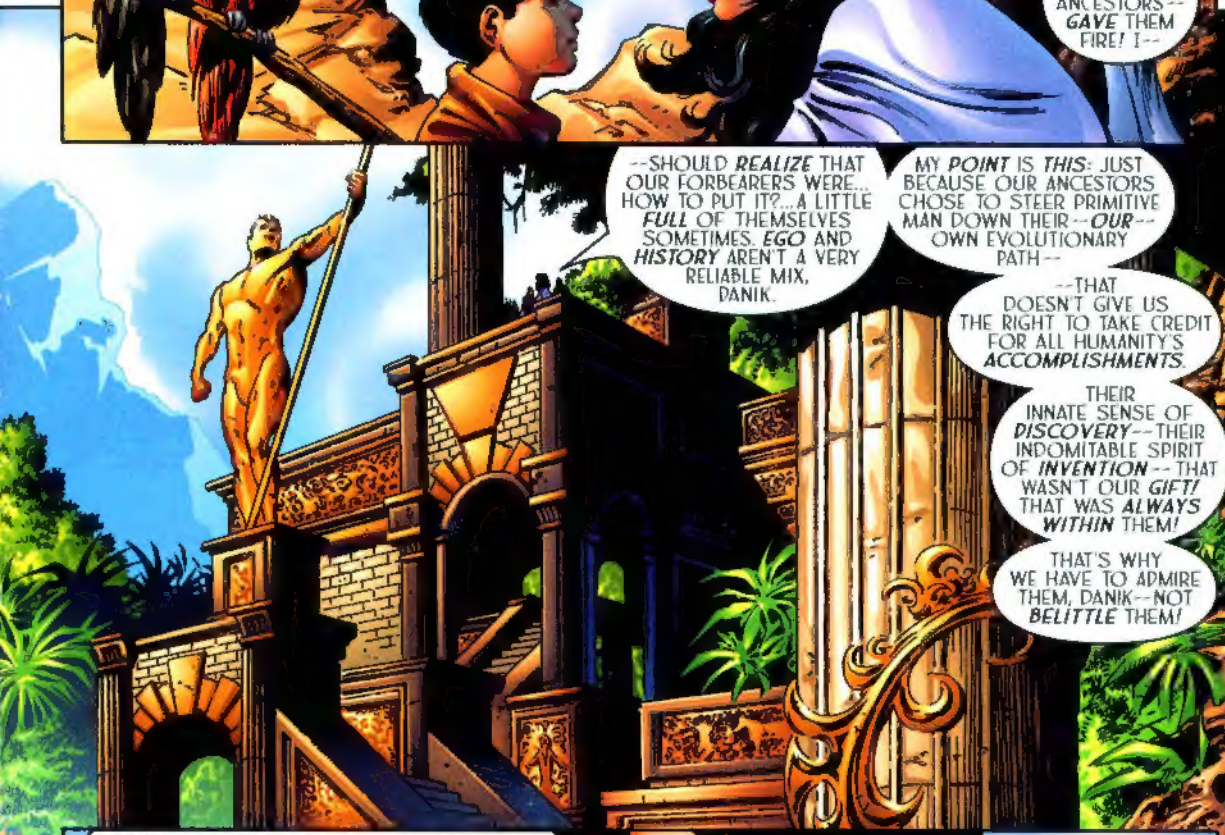
"HE'S BANGING *ROCKS*, CAPRICIA."
"NO, DANIK...
"...HE'S *THINKING*.
"THAT'S IT... *THAT'S* IT...
"YES!"

"WAIT! NO! IT'S OKAY!
"TELL THEM IT'S OKAY!
"TEACH THEM."

10,000 B.C.

AM I DONE?
YOU'VE BEEN VERY HELPFUL, LITTLE SEER.


DON'T PATRONIZE ME.
GODS FORFEND. THANK YOU FOR SHARING, VERITYN.
NOW DO YOU UNDERSTAND, DANIK?
I--I THOUGHT OUR ANCESTORS--GAVE THEM FIRE! I--


--SHOULD REALIZE THAT OUR FORBEARERS WERE... HOW TO PUT IT?...A LITTLE FULL OF THEMSELVES SOMETIMES. EGO AND HISTORY AREN'T A VERY RELIABLE MIX, DANIK.
MY POINT IS THIS: JUST BECAUSE OUR ANCESTORS CHOSE TO STEER PRIMITIVE MAN DOWN THEIR--OUR--OWN EVOLUTIONARY PATH--
--THAT DOESN'T GIVE US THE RIGHT TO TAKE CREDIT FOR ALL HUMANITY'S ACCOMPLISHMENTS.
THEIR INNATE SENSE OF DISCOVERY--THEIR INDOMITABLE SPIRIT OF INVENTION--THAT WASN'T OUR GIFT! THAT WAS ALWAYS WITHIN THEM!
THAT'S WHY WE HAVE TO ADMIRE THEM, DANIK--NOT BELITTLE THEM!

EVEN NOW, THEY'RE CREATING AGRICULTURAL TECHNOLOGY! THEY'RE DEVELOPING THEIR OWN CITIES AND MEDICINES AND ARCHITECTURE! WHAT WILL THEY ENVISION TOMORROW?
IF WE DO RIGHT BY THESE BEINGS... IF WE KEEP OUR ETERNAL PROMISE TO WATCH OVER THEM...GUIDE THEM ONLY WHEN THEY NEED IT AND TAKE PRIDE IN THEM WHEN THEY DON'T...
...THEN SOMEDAY... SOME AMAZING DAY... THIS NEW HUMAN RACE WILL NOT ONLY BE OUR PEERS, DANIK... THEIR ACHIEVEMENTS WILL MAKE OURS INSIGNIFICANT BY COMPARISON. SOMEDAY...

...ATLANTIS WILL BE BUT AN ARCHAIC MEMORY.

=AHEM= MEANWHILE...
YES?
DEAL'S A DEAL. PAY UP.
I THOUGHT THOSE WHO FOLLOWED THE PATH OF THE SPIRITUAL WERE UNCONCERNED WITH MATERIAL WEALTH.
SO I HEAR. PAY UP.
A POOR CHOICE OF SEERS, CAPRICIA, GIVEN THAT HE ILLUSTRATES MY ARGUMENT.
IS THAT SORT OF PETTY ADHERENCE TO TANGIBLE REWARDS SOMETHING WE TRULY WISH TO FOSTER?
Oh, FOR...
HE'S TEN YEARS OLD, DANIK. WE MADE A GAME OF IT.
YOU TRY MOTIVATING A CHILD USING CELESTIAL OVERTURES. BE SURE TO LET ME KNOW HOW IT GOES.
AND HE WAS AN EXCELLENT CHOICE. VERITYN'S A PRODIGY EVEN AMONG THOSE OF HIS PARTICULAR DISCIPLINE.
HE CAN SEE THE TRUTH IN ALL THINGS, DANIK--AND HE'S TAKEN MY SIDE.
WHAT DOES THAT TELL YOU?
I DON'T THINK WE'RE ARGUING OVER WHAT THE FUTURE IS, DANIK.
WE'RE DEBATING WHERE IT IS...
THAT, LIKE MOST CHILDREN, HIS WORLD REVOLVES AROUND CANDY TREATS AND CLEVER TOYS.
I, ON THE OTHER HAND, AM AN ADULT, AND I AM FAR MORE CONCERNED WITH OUR FUTURE THAN WITH OUR PRESENT.
...AGAIN, AS WE HAVE MOST OF OUR ADULT LIVES, SO FAMILIAR ARE OUR LINES, THEY'RE PRACTICALLY SCRIPTED. DANIK'S ABOUT TO TELL ME, FOR INSTANCE, THAT THE FUTURE IS WITHIN US.

IT'S WITHIN US. WE'RE NOT HUMANITY'S PARENTS.
IT'S WITH THEM. WE MAY NOT BE BIOLOGICALLY IDENTICAL...
...BUT WE ARE THEIR OLDER SIBLINGS JUST THE SAME.
AS USUAL, CAPRICIA, WE'RE ARGUING FROM THE SAME SIDE.
HE THINKS.
YES, WE HAVE A RESPONSIBILITY TO PROTECT THEM...
...BUT WE ALSO HAVE A DUTY TO INSPIRE THEM. TO SHOW THEM THROUGH EXAMPLE WHAT'S WORTH STRIVING FOR.
AS ATLANTIS' AMBASSADOR-TO-BE IN THE COMING CENTURIES, YOU KNOW ALL OUR CITIZENS--WHAT WE'RE CAPABLE OF, WHAT WE WANT. YOU KNOW WE ALL LONG FOR A RISING AND ADVANCING OF THE SPIRIT.
HOW FORTUNATE ARE WE TO FINALLY HAVE REACHED THE POINT OF ULTIMATE EVOLUTION? A TRANSITION THAT WILL TAKE US TO THE NEXT LEVEL OF EXISTENCE... A REALM WHERE WE WILL BE AS ONE WITH A HIGHER FORCE?
ISN'T THAT, ON SOME LEVEL, THE FUNDAMENTAL DREAM OF EVERY SENTIENT BEING?
WHY IS YOUR MINORITY FACTION SO OPPOSED TO FULFILLING ITS DESTINY?
BECAUSE...TO PUT IT BLUNTLY... THE TIMING'S LOUSY?
WE'RE A PATIENT GROUP, DANIK. WE'LL GLADLY BRAVE ANY TRANSITION ONCE THE HUMAN RACE CAN DO WITHOUT US. IN THE MEANTIME...
...WE'RE NOT SO ANXIOUS TO SURRENDER OUR SENSE OF SELF...
...OUR INDIVIDUALITY...
...OR OUR OWN HUMANITY.
I SEE YOUR SIDE HAS BEGUN TO GATHER.
IF YOU'RE DOWN HERE BECAUSE YOU'RE STILL TRYING TO SWAY ME... WELL, DON'T LET ME HOLD YOU UP.

I DIDN'T MEAN THAT TO SOUND SO ANGRY...
...DID I?
YOU'RE FUMING
I'M RESPONSIBLE
AGAIN, AS ARE WE ALL. IN FACT, WHILE YOU TALK AS IF WE'RE FOUNDED IN INDIVIDUALITY, OUR MENTAL AND PHYSICAL ABILITIES ARE IDENTICAL
--IN NATURE-- BUT NOT IN APPLICATION
--AND DANIK KNOWS IT. ATLANTEANS EXPRESS THEMSELVES AND HONE THEIR GIFTS BY SPECIALIZING IN ONE OF THE FIVE DISCIPLINES OF ATLANTEAN SOCIETY:
MIND--DOMAIN OF THE TELEPATHS AND TELEKINETICS;
BODY--THOSE ANXIOUS TO REDEFINE THE LIMITATIONS OF FLESH AND BLOOD;
SPIRIT--DOMINION OF THE SEERS AND PSYCHICS;
PASSION--CHARACTERISTIC OF THOSE WHO MANIFEST THEIR ENERGIES EXTERNALLY;
AND EMPATHY--PROVINCE OF THOSE FEW LIKE MYSELF--

--THE SHAPESHIFTERS.
JALEETA? WHAT'S THE MATTER SWEETIE?
IT'S THE TRANSITION, CAPRICIA WE'VE DECIDED TO STAY BEHIND. BUT JALEETAS FRIGHTENED
NOT JALEETA! WHY, SHE'S ALWAYS BEEN THE BRAVEST!
I WON'T LET ANYTHING BAD HAPPEN TO YOU, DARLING I'LL WATCH OUT FOR EVERYONE WHO STAYS. I PROMISE
THE TRANSITION IS NOTHING TO BE AFRAID OF
YOU'RE STILL FUMING
I'M HOPING I DIDN'T LIE TO HER INTELLECTUAL DEBATE ASIDE, DANK I'M WORRIED ABOUT THE RAW POWER THE TRANSITION EVENT STANDS TO UNLEASH
SUPPOSE YOUR FACTION CAN'T CONTROL IT?
THEN YOU'LL STILL BE SAFE IN THE STASIS CRADLES YOU'RE STILL FUMING
I'M NOT
I'M JUST TRYING TO REMEMBER WHEN WE STOPPED BEING FRIENDS
I'VE BEGGED YOU FOR MONTHS TO STAY BEHIND -- BUT YOU'VE NEVER ONCE ASKED ME TO COME ALONG WITH YOUR GROUP
I SAW NO POINT I KNEW YOU WOULDN'T
ABSOLUTELY NOT BUT THAT'S NOT THE POINT
THE POINT IS, YOU NEVER ASKED ME
I HAVE TO GO.
ME TOO
ME TOO

TWO DAYS LATER, AND WE HAVEN'T SPOKEN SINCE. I WORRY THAT WE NEVER WILL AGAIN.
I WONDER IF DANIK FEELS THE SAME?
I DOUBT IT.
HE'S AMONG THE LIKE-MINDED, AGAINST ALL MY ADVICE, HE AND THE VAST MAJORITY OF ATLANTEANS CONGREGATE IN THE SKY...
...PREPARING FOR THE CEREMONIAL POOLING OF POWER THEY BELIEVE WILL ELEVATE THEM TO AN ENLIGHTENED STATUS...
...WHILE THE 1,142 WHO'VE DECLINED LOOK TO ME TO TELL THEM THAT STAYING BEHIND IS A RATIONAL DECISION.
ALL MONITORS ARE ON LINE AND FULLY FUNCTIONAL?
CHECKED AND DOUBLE-CHECKED.
NO ONE HAS ANY REAL IDEA OF WHAT'S ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE DOOR ABOUT TO OPEN UP THERE. NEVERTHELESS, WE SHOULD BE SUFFICIENTLY SHIELDED AGAINST ANY ENERGY OUTLAY OR BACKLASH
GOOD. TWO MINUTES LEFT, THEN, AND YOU'RE AMONG THE LAST. BUT BEFORE WE SECURE YOUR CRADLE, MA'AM, ON BEHALF OF US ALL. WELL...
THANK YOU.
FOR?
FOR REMINDING US WHY WE'RE IN HERE INSTEAD OF UP THERE. WE'LL CONTINUE TO OVERSEE THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE HUMAN RACE INTO SOMETHING GRAND. THAT'S THE PLAN, RIGHT?
YES.
THAT'S THE PLAN.

THAT'S OUR RESPONSIBILITY.
IT'S TIME.
THREE...TWO... ONE...
SO BRIGHT--! GODS ABOVE, DANIK, WHAT HAVE YOU--
WHAT?
NO!
THE CHAMBER'S COLLAPSING! THE ENTIRE CHAMBER!
WHAT'S HAPPENING? WATER? WHERE'S THE WATER COMING FR--?
WARNING
EMERGENCY SEALS ENGAGED
GOT TO GET OUT! OPEN, DAMN YOU!
WARNING
EMERGENCY SEALS ENGAGED
OPEN!
WARNING
EMERGENCY SEALS ENGAGED
OPENNNNN

GGGKHUUUHKH!

KOFF! KOFF!
AIR! I NEED AIR! I--
--I CAN BREATHE--? HOW CAN I--WHY ARE WE UNDER--?
AHUH AHUH
OKAY. STAY CALM. FIRST THINGS FIRST. BE GRATEFUL THE QUAKE HAS STOPPED.
NEXT, MAKE SURE YOU'RE NOT HURT. LEGS ARE ALL RIGHT...ARMS...
...HEAVY?
ARMOR? BUT I WASN'T WEARING ARMOR A MOMENT AGO
A GIFT AS WAS YOUR ABILITY TO DRAW OXYGEN FROM THE SEAWATER
BOTH SHOULD PROVE HELPFUL
WHAT? WHY? WHO ARE YOU?
WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?
YOU WERE ASLEEP NOW YOU HAVE BEEN AWAKENED
TO ANSWER A CALL

YOU ANSWER ME! WHAT IS THIS MARK? WHAT DID YOU DO TO MY CITY? TO MY PEOPLE?
I ASSURE YOU THIS IS NOT MY HANDIWORK
I'M NOT AT ALL YOUR PROBLEM
THEY ARE
DEAR GODS...!

YOU CAN'T OUTRUN THEM
YOU MUST ATTACK
WITH WHAT?
WHERE DID THEY COME FROM?
WHAT ARE THEY?
THEY CALL THEMSELVES THE NEGATION
THAT TELLS ME NOTHING! THEY'RE EVERYWHERE!
I'M OUTNUMBERED! WAKE EVERYONE ELSE! HURRY!
CHOOSE
WHAT?
I CAN GIVE POWER ENOUGH TO REVIVE FOUR OTHERS OF YOUR KIND. FIVE, AT MOST. NO MORE
THEY WILL BE YOUR ONLY AID IN DEFENDING THOSE WHO REMAIN SLEEPING
SO CHOOSE YOUR ALLIES WISELY

WHO ARE YOU?
THAT DOESN'T MATTER RIGHT NOW. WHAT MATTERS ARE YOUR CHOICES
I HAVE TO CHOOSE? I CAN BARELY SEE! I NEED LIGHT! I NEED--
--THESE TWO!
AND WHATEVER YOU DID FOR ME, BE READY TO DO DOUBLE FOR THEM!
MEANING?
SEE FOR YOURSELF

GAMMID.

GALVAN.

IDENTICAL TWINS--

--EACH OF WHOM CONTROLS A DIFFERENT END OF THE ELECTROMAGNETIC SPECTRUM.

CAPRICIA? WHAT ?

LATER! YOUR BROTHER NEEDS HELP!

WELL, AT LEAST THAT'S FAMILIAR

THEY'RE AT THEIR BEST WHEN THEY WORK IN HARMONY.

JERK

THEORETICALLY.

NEXT?

WHO? WHO ELSE IS AT THE PINNACLE OF THEIR PARTICULAR DISCIPLINE? MAKE THE CALL...

...FAST!

BEHIND YOU! TO THE RIGHT!

SPEED. WHAT WE LACK IN NUMBERS, WE CAN MAKE UP FOR--

--WITH SOMEONE WHO CAN BE EVERYWHERE AT ONCE.

ZEPHYRE.

GOD'S ABOVE, WHEREAM IT THE EARTHQUAKE-- WHAT'S LONG ON?

NOT EASILY UNDERSTOOD, THIS GIRL...
...BUT AT LEAST SHE'S QUICK ON THE UPTAKE.
ARROW
NO QUESTIONS, ZEPHYRE! JUST FIGHT!
ZEPHYRE!
OVER HERE! THIS ONE!
ARE YOU CERTAIN? PERHAPS SOMEONE MORE PHYSICALLY FORMIDABLE MIGHT BE MORE APPROP
?
DO I LOOK LIKE I HAVE TIME TO ARGUE?
THIS ONE!
DONE

Huh?
THIS CHAMBER'S A MAZE OF MASONRY AND FALLEN CRADLES. EVERY MOVE IS AN AMBUSH WAITING TO HAPPEN.
VERITYN, OUR GREATEST SEER, STANDS THE BEST CHANCE OF SPOTTING HIDDEN CREATURES--
AAAAAAH!
--PROVIDED WE CAN KEEP HIM ALIVE.
I CAN AWAKEN ONE MORE YOUR SELECTION
BUT LET ME CAUTION YOU THAT YOU'RE NOT THINKING LIKE A WARRIOR
THAT COULD BE BECAUSE I'M NOT A WARRIOR! NONE OF US ARE!
ONE MORE?
HIM!

BODY, SPIRIT, PASSION, EMPATHY -- COVERED.
THAT LEAVES ONLY STUDENTS OF THE MIND.
BY AND LARGE, TELEKINETICS DO A LOT MORE SITTING AND POINTING THAN LIFTING AND SWEATING. YES, THEY COULD USE THEIR MENTAL ENERGIES TO AMPLIFY THEIR PHYSICAL STRENGTH...
...BUT," THEY FIGURE, "WHY BOTHER?"
THERE'S ONLY ONE I KNOW OF --
--WHO PREFERS WORKING WITH HIS HANDS.
THUNK!

SOMEBODY
HAS SOME EXPLAINING TO DO
TUG.
WITH ONE CLAP, HE GENERATES A SHOCKWAVE STRONG ENOUGH TO SCATTER THE CREATURES LIKE WINTER LEAVES...
...BUYING US TIME ENOUGH TO MAP A STRATEGY.
I KNOW THE OTHERS ARE COUNTING ON ME TO ACT WITH CONFIDENCE... BUT WHEN I YELL...
GET US OUT OF THIS CHAMBER! FOR ALL WE KNOW THEY'VE BEGUN TO DESTROY THE CITY!
...I SEE SOMETHING IN THE STRANGER'S EYES...
...THAT LOOKS A LOT LIKE CONDOLENCE.
AND ONCE HE TAKES US TO A PROPER VANTAGE POINT...
...I KNOW WHY.
PERFECT. WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO SEE MOST OF ATLANTIS FROM
HERE
NO
WE WERE ONLY ASLEEP FOR A MINUTE! JUST

JUST A MINUTE

HOW LONG?
PARDON?
YOU HEARD ME
HOW LONG?
HOW LONG WERE WE ASLEEP?
TEN YEARS? FIFTY?

WHI KEY
ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND

CROSSGEN COMICS
2
JUNE
$2.95
$4.70 CAN
www.crossgen.com
CROSSOVER
Mark Waid
Steve Epting
Rick Magyar
Frank D'Armata

THE STORY THUS FAR...

THEY WERE THE ATLANTEANS,

a peaceful civilization of artists and philosophers who used their phenomenal mental and physical skills to build an island utopia. They had but one responsibility: to guide and shepherd Earth's newborn race of *homo sapiens* towards a grand and glorious destiny.

But when a mysterious cataclysm plunged Atlantis and its people beneath the waves, six – and only six – were awakened by a mysterious stranger one thousand centuries later to find their utopia forgotten and in ruins, their brothers and sisters caught in an unshakeable slumber...and Earth overrun by an alien race of insectoid marauders known only as the Negation. Demanding the stranger show them what became of humanity during their hibernation, the six have been thrust into a world they neither recognize nor comprehend....

The mental and physical abilities of the Atlanteans are identical in nature but not in application. Capricia and her teammates have each channeled their abilities into different skills:

CAPRICIA – Shapeshifter and empath

TUG – Telekinetic strongman

ZEPHYRE – Hypermetabolic intellectual

GALVAN & GAMMID – Commanders of the electromagnetic spectrum

VERITYN – Seer of all truths

Crux™ vol. 1, issue 2, JUNE 200_ FIRST PRINTING. Published by CrossGeneration Comics, Inc. Office of publication: 123 Tampa Road, Suite 2400, Olympia, Florida 34677. CrossGen®, CrossGen Comics® and CrossGeneration Comics® are registered trademarks of CrossGeneration Comics, Inc. Crux™, the CrossGen sig™ and all prominent characters are ™ and © 2001 CrossGeneration Comics, Inc. All rights reserved. The entire contents of this book are ™ and © 2001 CrossGeneration Comics, Inc. The stories, incidents, and characters in this publication are fictional. Any similarities to persons living or dead are purely coincidental. With the exception of artwork used for review purposes, none of the contents of this book may be reproduced in any form without the express written consent of CrossGeneration Comics, Inc. PRINTED IN CANADA.

I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT I'M LOOKING AT.

WHISKEY
I DON'T RECOGNIZE THE BUILDINGS HERE.
I CAN'T READ THE WRITINGS HERE.
I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHERE "HERE" IS...
...EXCEPT THAT IT APPARENTLY HAS SOMETHING TO DO WITH THE RACE OF HUMANS WE PROMISED TO PROTECT...
...BEFORE TAKING A THOUSAND-CENTURY NAP.
JCV
THE SMELL OF FRESH SOIL AND THE OCCASIONAL GROUND FLAME TELL ME THE DAMAGE IS FRESH, SO WE'VE BEEN SCOURING THE RUBBLE FOR THE BETTER PART OF AN HOUR.
VERITYN'S UNCOVERED SOME SORT OF SPONGY POINTING DEVICE.
GALVAN AND GAMMID HAVE FOUND A PRIMITIVE WRITING STYLUS...
LET ME SEE THAT
IN A MINUTE
...AND SOMETHING NEW TO ARGUE OVER.
HEY! FIND YOUR OWN!
DON'T BE A CHILD
I SAID GIVE ME
ZEPHYRE'S UNEARTHED WHAT WOULD SEEM TO BE A METERED CONVEYANCE. LOTS OF ARTIFACTS...
BUT NO PEOPLE

THE BUGS DID THIS
THE NEGATION? HAVE YOU SEEN THEM? ARE THEY HERE? SHOULD WE
RELAX. I'M JUST GOING BY GUT. I CHOOSE TO BELIEVE THAT NO CIVILIZED SOCIETY WOULD CREATE SOMETHING THIS IMPRESSIVE JUST TO WRECK IT
WE ALL FEEL OUT OF PLACE, TUG. BUT SINCE FOR RIGHT NOW--ALL WE HAVE IS EACH OTHER, YOU HAVE TO STAY WITH US.
WE CAN'T AFFORD FOR YOU TO BUILD WALLS AROUND YOURSELF. WE NEED YOU
FOR WHAT? TK MUSCLE? WHEN I PICK UP ATLANTIS, SHOULD I...FT WITH MY LEGS? WILL THAT HELP?
FUNNY. IF I'D WANTED A COMEDIAN, BY THE WAY, I'D HAVE PICKED ZANUSS
YOU SHOULD HAVE. THE NEGATION WOULD KILL THEMSELVES JUST TO AVOID HIS ACT
TELL ME
THAT'S RIGHT. TUG WAS AN ARCHITECT. A BUILDER. THAT WAS WHERE HE FOUND BEAUTY.
SINCE HE AWOKE, HE'S BEEN SURROUNDED BY NOTHING BUT RUINS.
THIS IS NOT I DON'T
I KEEP WANTING TO WAKE UP, C TO THROW OPEN MY CURTAINS AND STAND IN THE SUN UNTIL IT BURNS AWAY THIS STUPID NIGHTMARE
I REPEAT. TELL ME TUG IF IT HELPS WORRY ABOUT OUR SITUATION LATER. FOR NOW, STAY CENTERED ON WHAT WE HAVE TO MAKE RIGHT
WE WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR AN ENTIRE RACE THAT'S NOW NOWHERE TO BE SEEN
I DON'T REMEMBER VOLUNTEERING TO MAKE THAT MY PROBLEM UNDER CIRCUMSTANCES LIKE THESE. MY FRIENDS. MY FAMILY. THEY'RE ALL
LOOK, YOU WANT TO TRADE ME OUT FOR SOMEONE WHO SHARES YOUR PRIORITIES, TAKE IT UP WITH RED
WHY?
WHY TALK TO HIM WHEN I CAN FIND A PERFECTLY GOOD WALL TO YELL AT INSTEAD?

MYSTERIES WRAPPED IN ENIGMAS, THIS ONE. HE'S REVEALED NOTHING ABOUT HIMSELF, NOT EVEN HIS NAME.
HE WOKE US UP...BRANDED US WITH SOME KIND OF GLOWING EMBLEM...
...AND THEN DIPPED US IMMEDIATELY INTO A WORLD CRAWLING WITH INSECTOID PREDATORS... ALL WITH NO EXPLANATION.
YOU
YES, YOU WE'VE HAD ENOUGH OF THE SILENT TREATMENT
WHO ARE YOU? WHERE DO YOU COME FROM? WHAT'S YOUR INTEREST IN ALL THIS?
DESPITE HOW OFTEN I BADGER HIM, HE ANSWERS ONLY THE QUESTIONS HE WANTS TO ANSWER... WHICH NUMBER IN THE ZERO RANGE.
WELL?
WHAT? WHERE DO YOU THINK YOU'RE--?
DON'T YOU DARE TURN YOUR BACK ON ME! ANSWER ME!
Umm CAPRICIA
NOT NOW, VERITYN
I MEAN IT! WE'RE NOT TAKING ANOTHER STEP UNTIL YOU
STAY CALM, CAPRICIA. REMEMBER YOUR PERSONALITY TENDS TO FLUCTUATE TO MIRROR YOUR SHAPE SHIFTING
CAPRICIA
NOT NOW, VERITYN! HOW--HOW DID YOU KNOW
VERITYN WHAT?
LOOK

OH...
...OH, THIS JUST KEEPS GETTING BETTER AND BETTER...
WE'RE IN AN ENTIRELY NEW LAND...? HOW? WE'VE BEEN WALKING HARDLY ANY TIME AT--

HUMANS! YAY!
SHUT UP TUG
NOW WHAT? GIBBERISH-SPEAK OR NOT, WEAPONS HAVE A WAY OF TRANSCENDING LANGUAGE BARRIERS.
STEP BACK, YOU APE!
GALVAN
GALVAN, QUIET! I'LL HANDLE THIS!
WILL YOU CALM DOWN?
HOW DO I GET THROUGH TO YOU? WE'D BE DELIGHTED TO EXPLAIN OURSELVES IF WE COULD COMMUNICATE, BUT WE DON'T HAVE ANY WAY OF UNDERSTANDING YOUR
OR DO WE?
STYLUS NOW
THEY'RE ADVANCING. PLEASE, OH, PLEASE, DON'T LET THEM TRY TO MANHANDLE --
WRITE IT DOWN
WRITE IT DOWN

VERITYN'S SPECIALTY IS TO SEE TRUTH IN ALL ITS FORMS. LET'S SEE HOW THAT APPLIES TO CRYPTOLOGY...
VERITYN WHAT DOES THIS SAY?
WE ARE THE SECURITY ARM OF TERRA COGNITO COME WITH US"
THANK YOU
DEMONSTRATING NOT ONE MORE HINT OF RESISTANCE, WE CALMLY FOLLOW THESE MEN TO THEIR TRANSPORT VEHICLE.
SURPRISINGLY, EVEN OUR RED-TRESSED STRANGER PUTS UP NO STRUGGLE.
I DON'T LIKE BEING HERDED
DON'T GO GALVAN ON ME. I DOUBT THEY'RE ANY THREAT TO US BUT WE SHOULD PLAY ALONG
UNLESS YOU'VE FIGURED OUT A BETTER WAY TO GATHER INFORMATION
I THOUGHT SO

AS OUR MYSTERY MAN SEEMS TO KNOW, WHILE ALL ATLANTEANS ARE MORE OR LESS CAPABLE OF THE SAME SKILLS, WE EACH REFINE OUR ABILITIES ALONG DIFFERENT PATHS...

TERRA COGNITO

...SO, DURING TRANSPORT, TUG AND VERITYN SILENTLY COMBINE THEIR TALENTS TO COACH THE ENTIRE GROUP IN TELEPATHIC TRANSLATION.

SLOWLY, WE BEGIN TO FIT THE WORDS OF THE GUARDS TOGETHER LIKE PUZZLE PIECES AS WE EAVESDROP.

WE LEARN THAT THE NEGATION HAS SWEPT THE GLOBE...

...THAT "TERRA COGNITO," WHATEVER THAT IS, HAS SAFELY EVACUATED THE "VISITORS"...WHOEVER THEY ARE...

...AND THAT THESE GUARDS (OF SOMETHING) PLAN TO FOLLOW BUT CAN'T.

...UNTIL THEY DECIDE WHAT TO DO WITH US.

UNFORTUNATELY, THAT'S THE EXTENT OF WHAT WE CAN GLEAN. NOTHING'S SAID ABOUT THE HUMAN RACE IN GENERAL OR ABOUT THE PLANET'S ODD TOPOGRAPHY...

...PARTICULARLY SINCE THE GUARDS GROW INCREASINGLY QUIET... AND INCREASINGLY ANXIOUS FOR SOME REASON.

ODD. JUDGING BY THE SIZE OF THIS FACILITY, YOU'D THINK THERE'D BE FAR MORE INHABITANTS. INSTEAD, WE SEEM TO BE ALL ALONE.

WHY IS THAT?

OPEN FIRE!
OPEN FIRE!
HHHHUUMANNNSSS!
HHUUMAAAS!
THEY... THEY CAN SPEAK? WHY DIDN'T WE HEAR THEM BEFORE?
MAYBE BECAUSE WE WERE UNDERWATER? WHO CARES?
HIT BACK!
YOU! NAMELESS! LOOK AFTER VERITYN!
BUT
HE GETS HURT, YOU ANSWER TO ME!

THE BROTHERS CAN EACH MANIPULATE VARIOUS RADIATIONS.

GALVAN'S FAVORITE IS INFRARED, GAMMID'S IS ULTRAVIOLET.

BOTH PROVE EFFECTIVE DESPITE THE TWINS HAVING NO CLUE HOW BEST TO USE THEM IN COMBAT.

WE'RE OVERWHELMED... FORCED INTO BATTLE NOT OUT OF COURAGE SO MUCH AS SOME MIXTURE OF ADRENALINE AND BLIND PANIC.

OURS WAS—

—IS A RACE FOUNDED ON PEACE AND TRANQUILITY. WE'RE NOT USED TO PUTTING OURSELVES AT RISK...

...NOR AM I CONFIDENT WE'D AGREE ON WHAT'S WORTH RISKING OUR LIVES TO PROTECT.

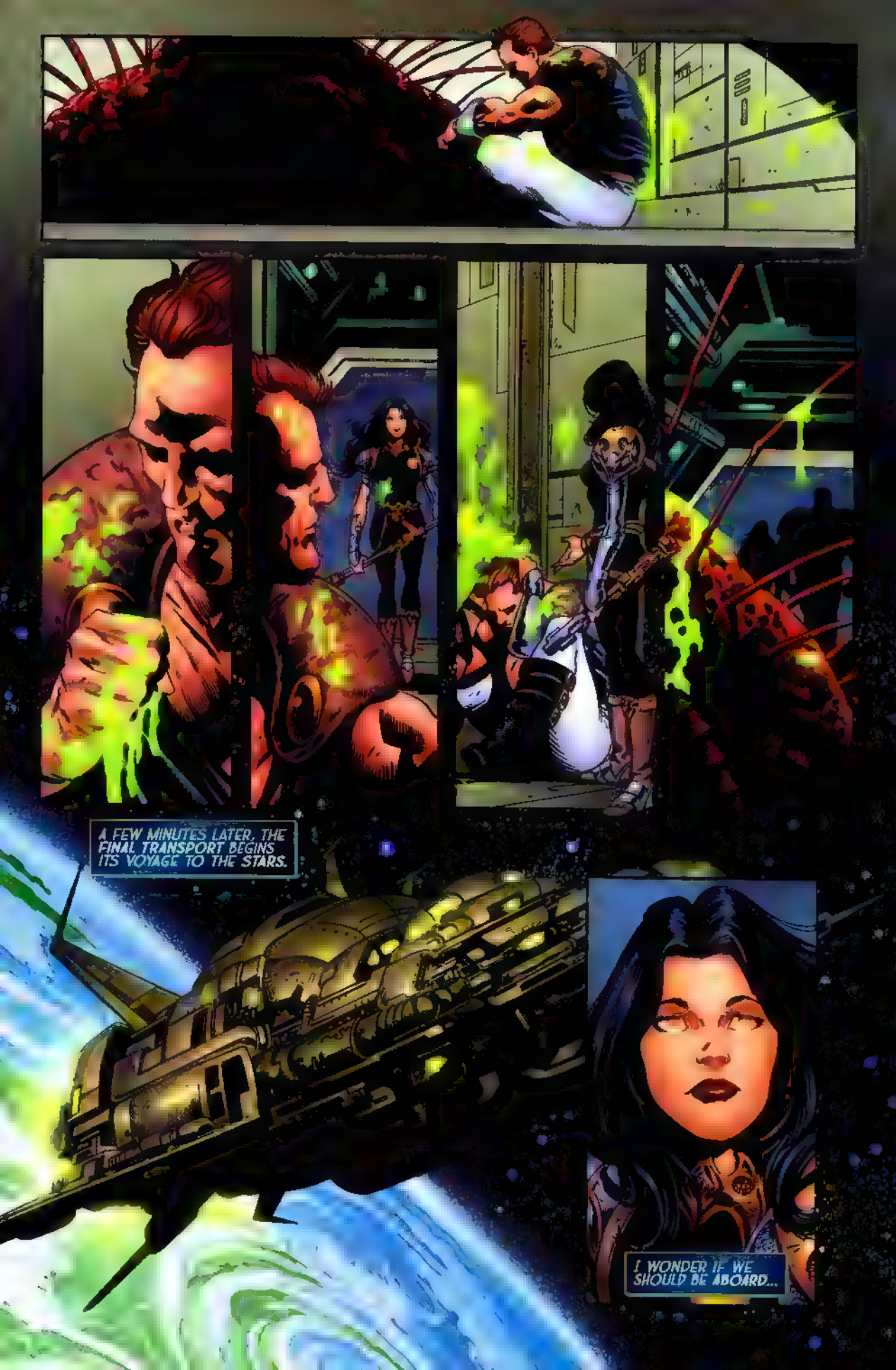
?

WE ALL HAVE OUR PRIORITIES.

GOT
HIM!
I RAN AHEAD TO FIND A CLEAN CORRIDOR OUT! LET'S GO!
THEY'RE RIGHT BEHIND US! HURRY!
THE GUARDS GET IT BETWEEN ZEPH'S TONE AND HER FRANTIC GESTURES. THERE'S NOT MUCH ROOM FOR MISINTERPRETATION.
THEY STORM DOWN THE HALLS IN TENSE SILENCE. ONLY ONCE, AS WE NEAR THE CORRIDOR'S END, DO THEY SPEAK--AND WHILE I STRAIN TO UNDERSTAND THEM--
--IT BECOMES HARD TO CONCENTRATE.

I THINK THAT'S THE LAST OF THEM!
GOOD! WE'RE ALMOST THERE!
THERE BEING ?
AN EVACUATION SHIP! I CAUGHT A BUNCH OF THEM BLASTING OFF A SECOND AGO IT'S THE LAST ONE
...SO IF I THOUGHT THE GUARDS WERE SCRAMBLING DOWN THE CORRIDOR...
...THEY HALVE THEIR TIME CLAMBERING UP THE GANGPLANK...
...PROBABLY BECAUSE THE SEVEN OF US ARE RIGHT ON THEIR HEELS, FANNING OUT TO MAKE SURE THEY'RE PROTECTED.
WAIT.
SEVEN--?
TUG ?
TUG!

GET OUT OF HERE
GO.


A FEW MINUTES LATER, THE FINAL TRANSPORT BEGINS ITS VOYAGE TO THE STARS.
I WONDER IF WE SHOULD BE ABOARD...

...BUT OUR WORK HERE HASN'T EVEN BEGUN.
WE HAVE TO SAVE OUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS.
WE HAVE TO FIND OUT WHAT BECAME OF AN ENTIRE RACE THAT DEPENDED ON US.
WE HAVE TO TALK TO THE MAN IN THE HAT
WE--
WHAT?
HAT MAN
LO?

LO?
HLO?
Huh. YOU JUST NOW NOTICED HIM?
I WAS BUSY, ZEPH
YOU WEREN T FIGHTING
THEN MAYBE I WAS LOOKING AT YOUR UNDERWEAR HEY, HAT MAN -- C'MON OUT
HE'S CERTAINLY TALKATIVE, THIS ONE.
NOW THAT THINGS ARE A LITTLE MORE RELAXED, NOW THAT WE'RE MORE FAMILIAR WITH THE LANGUAGE, WE FOCUS...
...AND TELEPATHIC TRANSLATION BECOMES AUTOMATIC.
SO I TURNED LEFT WHEN I SHOULD HAVE TURNED RIGHT AND AND, WELL
WHAT'D I MISS..?
HE CALLS HIMSELF GEROMI. WE TELL HIM OUR STORY..
WOW
...THEN HE TELLS US HIS.

THIS IS *WAS* THE OPERATIONS CENTER FOR A COMPANY CALLED *TERRA COGNITO* THEY OWN THE *EARTH*

OWN"?

OKAY, MORE LIKE *LAID CLAIM TO IT* A COUPLE CENTURIES AGO BACK THEN NO ONE REALLY *WANTED* IT

SO THE TC CORP WENT TO WORK *REBUILDING* IT AND *REMADE* IT IN VIRTUALLY *NO* TIME

OF COURSE, IT *HELPED* THAT THEY TOOK SOME *SERIOUS LIBERTIES* WITH *GEOGRAPHY* AND THIS IS JUST *NEW NORTH AMERICA*

YOU SHOULD SEE WHAT THEY DID WITH THE *OTHER* FIVE CONTINENTS

REMADE IT TO WHAT *END* ?

TO TURN A *PROFIT*, FRANKLY TO BRING IN *TOURISTS* EARTH *TODAY* IS HALF *AMUSEMENT PARK*, HALF *MUSEUM*

ALL IN MEMORY OF THE *LONG LOST* RACE KNOWN AS *EARTHLINGS*

LONG-LOST? BUT AREN'T *YOU* A ?

TRUEBLOOD? NO NONE OF THE TERRA COGNITO WORKERS ARE MA'AM

IN FACT NOBODY *ELSE* IS *EITHER*

SEE, ALL THE HUMANS YOU MEET *TODAY* COME FROM COLONY WORLDS SETTLED TENS OF THOUSANDS OF *YEARS* AGO

NATIVE EARTHLINGS ARE ANOTHER TALE *ALTOGETHER*

AS LEGEND *HAS* IT, ONE DAY *CENTURIES* AGO REPORTS VARY

THE *ENTIRE POPULATION OF EARTH* SUDDENLY -- AND WITH NO *EXPLANATION* -- BROKE *ALL COMMUNICATION* WITH THE COLONY WORLDS AND WHEN SHIPS WERE SENT TO *INVESTIGATE*

--THEY FOUND *NOTHING* EARTH WAS *DESERTED* UTTERLY *DEVOID* OF *HUMAN LIFE*

EVERY MAN WOMAN AND CHILD *ALIVE* HAD JUST *VANISHED* AND TO THIS DAY

NO ONE KNOWS WHERE THEY *WENT*

EVENTUALLY, SOMEBODY DID THE MATH ON THAT AGE-OLD EQUATION, "TRAGEDY + TIME = COMMERCIAL OPPORTUNITY" AND TERRA COGNITO WAS BORN
COLONY WORLD NATIVES WERE ALREADY MAKING PILGRIMAGES TO EARTH, THE TC CORP FIGURED SO WHY NOT GIVE THEM WAY MORE TO LOOK AT AND OH, YEAH CHARGE THEM FOR IT?
IF THAT BOTHERS YOU AS MUCH AS IT SEEMS TO, WHY ARE YOU WORKING FOR THEM?
AAARGH WILL YOU LOOK AT THAT?
I KEEP TELLING THEM NO HORSES N 12 - CENTURY NORTH AMERICA
BECAUSE I'M A NUT FOR HISTORICAL PRESERVATION
MAYBE I CAN'T KEEP THESE BRAINIACS FROM PLUNKING TOMBSTONE, ARIZONA DOWN NEXT TO ANCIENT GREECE FOR "CONVENIENCE'S SAKE"
BUT IF I CAN KEEP THE TYRANNOSAURS OUT OF BEIJING, AT LEAST I CAN SLEEP AT NIGHT
AND HOW DO THE NEGATION FACTOR INTO ALL OF THIS?
THE BUGS? IS THAT WHAT YOU CALL THEM?
GOOD QUESTION. WE DON'T KNOW IF THEY HITCHED A RIDE ON A TRANSPORT OR FELL THROUGH SUBSPACE OR WHAT BUT ABOUT A WEEK AGO, THEY STARTED TEARING UP THE PLANET LIKE ROACHES WITH A MAD ON
LEAVING TC NO CHOICE BUT TO EVACUATE TOURISTS AND WORKERS ALIKE FAR AS I KNOW, I AM THE CURRENT POPULATION OF EARTH
THE LAST MAN ALIVE? YOU DON'T SEEM VERY UPSET BY THAT
I'M IN SHOCK IT'LL SINK IN ARE THE BUGS STILL ON THE GROUNDS?
NO
THEN I GET THE RUN OF THE PLACE SCOOL, ACTUALLY
SO AT LEAST UNTIL TC COMES TO SCOPE THE DAMAGE
IF YOU FOLKS ARE STICKING AROUND, CONSIDER ME YOUR TOUR GUIDE, I GUESS

WAIT
THEY'RE JUST GONE ?
CAPRICIA, ARE YOU OKAY?
NO NO, I'M NOT OKAY NOT IF I'M THE ONLY ONE WHO REALLY HEARD WHAT GEROMI JUST SAID
THINK! NOT ONLY HAVE WE LOST MILLENNIA OF OUR LIVES
NOT ONLY IS EVERYTHING AND EVERYONE WE KNOW LYING IN RUINS AT THE BOTTOM OF THE WORLD
CAPRICIA CALM DOWN
ALL THAT ALL THAT, I MIGHT BE ABLE TO DEAL WITH IF IF I KNEW WE STILL HAD A CHANCE AT REDEMPTION!
BUT WE DON'T!
WE HAD ONE RESPONSIBILITY TO WATCH OVER AND GUIDE THE HUMAN RACE AND WE FAILED
THEY'RE GONE
SO WHAT DO WE DO NOW?
WE FIND THEM

OR AT LEAST FIND OUT WHAT BECAME OF THEM. THINK BACK TO THE FIGHT
"HUMANS" WAS THE ONLY WORD THE NEGATION SAID. CLEARLY, THE BUGS ARE INTERESTED IN THEM TOO, FOR THEIR OWN REASONS. NONE GOOD, I'M SURE
WHICH MEANS WE'D BETTER TRACK THEM DOWN FIRST
GEROMI, WILL--
YES!
--WILL YOU
YES!
HELP US DO
YES!
THIS?
YES!
GOOD PLAN. WHAT MADE YOU, OF ALL PEOPLE, COME UP WITH IT?
IT SOUNDS SUSPICIOUSLY LIKE IT OUGHT TO BE A PRIORITY
IT IS THAT. BUT THERE'S ANOTHER MATTER TO ATTEND TO FIRST. IF THE ENEMY GETS IN OUR WAY AGAIN, WE ARE HORRIBLY OUTNUMBERED
IF WE WANT TO EVEN THE ODDS AGAINST THE NEGATION
WE HAVE TO BRING ATLANTIS BACK TO LIFE

The CrossGen Universe
created by
Mark Alessi &
Gina M. Villa
Mark WAID
WRITER
Steve EPTING
PENCILER
Rick MAGYAR
INKER
Frank D'ARMATA
COLORIST
Troy PETERI with
Dave LANPHEAR
LETTERERS
Mark Alessi
Publisher & CEO
Gina M. Villa
Chief Operating Officer
Michael A. Beattie
Chief Financial Officer
Tony Panaccio
Vice President
Product Development
James Breitbeil
Director of
Marketing & Distribution
Ian M. Feller
Manager Media Relations
Barbara Kesel
Head Writer
Brandon Peterson
Art Director
Bart Sears
Assistant Art Director
Pam Davies
Production Director
Sylvia Bretz
Production Assistant
Dave Lanphear
Design Director
Troy Peteri
Design Assistant
Michelle Pugliese
Freelance Coordinator

CROSSGEN COMICS
3
JULY
$2.95
$4.70 CAN
www.crossgen.com
CROSSGEN
MARK WAID
STEVE EPTING
RICK MAGYAR
FRANK D'ARMATA

THE STORY THUS FAR...

THEY WERE THE ATLANTEANS,
a peaceful civilization of artists and philosophers who used their phenomenal mental and physical skills to build an island utopia. They had but one responsibility: to guide and shepherd Earth's newborn race of homo sapiens towards a grand and glorious destiny. But when a mysterious cataclysm plunged Atlantis and its people beneath the waves, six – and only six – were awakened by a mysterious stranger one thousand centuries later to find their utopia forgotten and in ruins, their brothers and sisters caught in an unshakeable slumber, and Earth transformed into a deserted amusement park, a planetwide mosaic celebrating the various historical eras of mankind... a race nowhere to be found.

Soon thereafter, the six Atlanteans learned that – bereft of their guidance – Earth's inhabitants vanished under mysterious circumstances centuries ago. Worried for humanity's safety, bearing the guilt of having failed to protect their charges, the six have vowed to locate the human race and redeem themselves...even though it means fighting their way through an alien race known only as the Negation. Desperately outnumbered against these insectoid marauders, the six Atlanteans now labor frantically to restore their sunken city and revive its people....

The mental and physical abilities of the Atlanteans are identical in nature but not in application. Capricia and her teammates have each channeled their abilities into different skills:

CAPRICIA	- TUG -	ZEPHYRE	GALVAN & GAMMID	VERITYN
Shapeshifter and empath	Telekinetic strongman	Hypermetabolic intellectual	Manipulators of the electromagnetic spectrum	Seer of all truths

Crux™ Volume 3 ISSUE 3 JULY 2001 FIRST PRINTING Published by CrossGeneration Comics Inc. Office of publication: 4624 Tampa Road Suite 240 Oldsmar Florida 34677 CrossGen® CrossGen Comics® CrossGeneration® and CrossGeneration Comics® are registered trademarks of CrossGeneration Comics Inc. Crux™, the CrossGen sigil™ and all prominent characters are ™ and © 2001 CrossGeneration Comics Inc. All rights reserved. The stories, characters, and incidents featured in this book are ™ and © 2001 CrossGeneration Comics Inc. The stories, characters, and incidents in this publication are fictitious. Any resemblance to persons living or dead are purely coincidental. With the exception of artwork used for review purposes, none of the contents of this book may be reproduced in any form without the express written consent of CrossGeneration Comics Inc. PRINTED IN CANADA

THIS IS YOUR FAULT, YOU IDIOT!
NO. NO. MAYBE...
THIS IS YOUR FAULT, YOU IDIOT!
...
...NO.
I CAN'T TURN BACK THE CLOCK A THOUSAND CENTURIES. AS ANGRY AS I AM, I CAN'T PUNISH HIM FROM HERE. I PROBABLY COULDN'T HAVE THEN. DANIK, WE WERE SO CLOSE...
...HOW COULD WE HAVE ENDED UP THIS FAR APART?
AGAINST MY WISHES, DANIK LED THE MAJORITY OF ATLANTEANS TO A HIGHER DESTINY.
AS A CITYSTATE OFFICIAL, I WAS IN CHARGE OF THOSE WHO STAYED BEHIND.
I DON'T KNOW WHATEVER BECAME OF DANIK'S FACTION, BUT THANKS TO THE BACKLASH OF THEIR PASSAGE...

...THIS IS WHAT HAPPENED TO OURS.

STILL, I THINK WE CAN MAKE IT RIGHT... AND I MUST BE ON TO SOMETHING IF THE STRANGER'S DEIGNED TO JOIN US IN OUR WORK.
THEN AGAIN, HE COULD JUST STOP AT ANY MOMENT AND CONTEMPLATE HIS NAVEL. HE'S LIKE THAT.
I FIND HIM MORE THAN A LITTLE MADDENING. YES, HE WOKE THE SIX OF US UP TO FIGHT THE NEGATION...
...BUT HE STILL WON'T SAY WHY, OR WHO HE IS, OR PASS ALONG MUCH OF ANYTHING THAT MIGHT RESEMBLE, OH, INFORMATION.
IF ANYBODY ON THE TEAM HAS FIGURED HIM OUT...
...I'D LOVE TO KNOW WHAT THEY SEE.
NEVER MIND. CONCENTRATE ON THE TASK AT HAND.
BEFORE WE LEFT TERRA COGNITO, ZEPHYRE--LEARNING EARTH LANGUAGES ALONG THE WAY--RESEARCHED IN ONE AFTERNOON THOUSANDS OF YEARS' WORTH OF ANTI-GRAVITY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT...
...LOVING EVERY MINUTE OF IT. PROFESSIONAL STUDENT THAT SHE IS.
NO WONDER SHE'D RATHER SPEND TIME WITH HER STUDIES THAN WITH HER PEERS:
LISTEN! LISTEN! LISTEN! THIS IS JUST REMARKABLE! WHAT THEY'VE DISCOVERED ABOUT THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN GRAVITY AND ELECTROMAGNETISM AND HOW WHAT THEY CALL BOSONS AND FERMIONS ARE TIED TOGETHER IN A UNIFIED THEORY THEY CALL SUPERSTRING WHICH MEANS THAT ENERGY HAS SOME PROPERTIES OF MATTER AND MATTER HAS SOME PROPERTIES OF ENERGY AND AND WE CAN WORK WITH THAT TO
BOOKS AND COMPUTERS CAN KEEP UP WITH HER...

CONFIGURE A SERIES OF TOWE TO PROVIDE A FERMION WAVE
Uh-huh TUG, YOU UNDERSTAND HER, RIGHT?
YEP
THEN WE'RE GOOD
I LOVE ZEPH, BUT GET HER WORKED UP AND SHE'S LIKE A KID TELLING A JOKE: "AND THEN--AND THEN--AND THEN--"
AND THOUGH WE NOW HAD A PLAN, EVEN WITH ZEPH'S NEW-FOUND KNOWLEDGE AND SOME SPARE COGNITO TECHNOLOGY--
--WE REQUIRED SOME EQUIPMENT STILL TOO ADVANCED FOR EARTH--
--BUT NOT FOR ATLANTIS.
WHICH IS WHY I'VE TEAMED VERITYN, OUR SEER, WITH TUG, THE FORMER ARCHITECT AND BUILDER...
OVER HERE
CHECK
...TO FIND ANY AND EVERY PIECE OF SALVAGEABLE ATLANTEAN TECHNOLOGY REGARDLESS OF HOW DEEPLY IT'S BURIED.
NOT THAT THERE'S MUCH LEFT AFTER 100,000 YEARS UNDERSEA...
NO, NO, NO DOWN THERE YOU GOTTA REACH
SURE HOLD THIS
HAR
...BUT FOLLOWING TUG'S INSTRUCTIONS, GALVAN AND GAMMID MELD THE SCRAPS TO THE COGNITO PARAPHERNALIA, RINGING ATLANTIS WITH A SERIES OF TOWERS...
...THAT, ONCE COMPLETED, SHOULD RAISE ATLANTIS TO THE SURFACE ONCE MORE.
IN THE MEANTIME, THE TWINS HAVE COMBINED THEIR POWER TO GIVE US A "SUN" THAT PROVIDES WORKLIGHT.
LET'S HOPE THEY CAN MAINTAIN THAT SPIRIT OF COOPERATION. INDIVIDUALLY, THEY'RE BOTH QUITE GIFTED--
--BUT THEIR UNITED POWER SETS NEW LEVELS--
-- WHEN AND ONLY WHEN THEY'RE ACTING TOGETHER, IN HARMONY, IN SYNCH, IN RHYTHM, AND THEREIN...

...LIES THE PROBLEM.
-CANNOT IMAGINE WHY YOU THINK YOU'RE MY BOSS, YOU PATRONIZING--
HEY, SOMEONE'S GOT TO CHART A COURSE, AND IF YOU DON'T HAVE THE SPINE
SIGH.
GAMMID, WHY DON'T YOU MOVE ON TO THE NEXT TOWER? I WANT TO TALK TO GALVAN
DID YOU HEAR HIM? I'M SICK AND TIRED OF --
GAMMID, WHY DON'T YOU MOVE ON TO THE NEXT TOWER? I WANT TO TALK TO GALVAN
LIKE HE'D LISTEN TO YOU ANY MORE THAN HE'D LISTEN TO--
GAMMID, WHY DON'T YOU MOVE ON TO THE NEXT TOWER? I WANT TO TALK TO GALVAN!
I -
FINE
HE HAS NO IDEA HOW TO TAKE ORDERS
SAYS THE EXPERT. GALVAN, HE'S YOUR BROTHER I CHOSE BOTH OF YOU WHEN I WAS PULLING THIS GROUP TOGETHER PLEASE DON'T MAKE ME SORRY I DID
WHY NOT? I AM!
YOU CAN CHOOSE YOUR ALLIES, BUT I CAN'T CHOOSE MY RELATIVES! IS THAT FAIR?
NO, BUT THAT'S NOT WHAT'S BOTHERING YOU TELL ME WHAT IS. I'M LISTENING
NOTHING. IT'S NOTHING. WE HAVE A LOT TO ACCOMPLISH
I'LL PUT THIS ASIDE
SURE YOU WILL.

SPEAKING WITH GAMMID IS EQUALLY LIKE TALKING TO A LOAF OF BREAD.
I KNOWN YOU TWO FOR YEARS, GAMMID
AND IT JUST SEEMS AS IF THERE S MORE TO TH S FRICTION THAN YOUR STANDARD S BLING RIVALRY
IT S
IT S JUST THE WAY WE ARE
CAPR CIAS RIGHT, THOUGH WE HAVE A LOT DEPENDING ON US
ARE YOU ASKING FOR A TRUCE?
ARE YOU?
WILL YOU STOP? I WANT A TRUCE REMEMBER THIS ISN'T SIMPLY ABOUT MOVING THE CITY
WE ALSO HAVE TO RE-ROUTE SOME OF YOUR ENERGIES TO THE STASIS CHAMBER
YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO GENERATE ENOUGH POWER TO AWAKEN OUR FRIENDS AND LOVED ONES
IF YOU TWO CAN WORK IN CONCERT CAN THAT HAPPEN?
YES
ABSOLUTELY
GOOD.
THEN NOTHING STANDS IN OUR WAY.

WHOA! WHOA! DO YOU MIND?
DON'T GET ME STARTED ON MY DAD TRUST ME
HE DID ME NO FAVORS
SO HE'S THE ONE WHO NAMED YOU "TUG"?
TUG'S NOT MY-
NEVER MIND
SLOW DOWN! WHEN YOU MOVE THAT FAST, YOU KICK UP SO MUCH SILT, I CAN BARELY SEE
NOT WHAT? YOUR FULL NAME? I DIDN'T THINK SO IT'S A NICKNAME, RIGHT?
KINDA DOESN'T MATTER HELP ME WITH--
SORRY JUST EXCITED CAN'T WAIT TO SEE MY FATHER AGAIN AND YOU?
THEN IT'S SHORT FOR SOMETHING, ISN'T IT?
IT IS! Oh, I CAN'T WAIT TO FIGURE THIS OUT! S T
?
WHAT IN THE ?

Ah.
FIGURES
Oh FOR --
FREEZE!
HE --
Oh, AND SHUT UP!
I WANT THE TRUTH RIGHT HERE AND RIGHT NOW! IF THERE'S SOME BAD BLOOD BETWEEN YOU TWO SO POWERFUL THAT IT'S STILL LINGERING GIVEN ALL WE'VE BEEN THROUGH THESE PAST FEW DAYS.
THEN YOU MUST HAVE HAD ONE HELL OF A BLOWOUT RIGHT BEFORE WE SANK
I'M NOT INTERESTED IN PASSING JUDGMENT I'M NOT LOOK NG TO LEVEL BLAME. BUT I DEMAND TO KNOW WHAT S SO HUGE IT COULD SO BADLY CLOUD PRIORITIES SO OBVIOUS EVEN A TEN YEAR-OLD CAN SEE THEM CLEARLY!
WELL?
AND JUST LIKE THAT, THEY BOTH RUN AWAY. GOOD. I NEED MORE TO WORRY ABOUT.
THE NEGATION ALIENS COULD STILL BE SKULKING ABOUT--AND WE ARE FAR MORE A GROUP OF PHILOSOPHERS AND THINKERS THAN WARRIORS.
IN FACT, THE ONLY THING THAT KEEPS US ALIVE--

--IS THAT THE ALIENS ARE LIKE BUGS. THEY SHOW NO SIGN OF BEING AN ACTUAL ORGANIZED ARMY WITH STRATEGY AND PLANNING AND WEAPONS. OTHERWISE--
--WE WOULDN'T STAND A CHANCE.

SO WHAT'S GNAWING AT THE TWINS, VERITYN? BETTER YET, WHY IN THE NAME OF THE *LIFEGODS* WOULD IT EVEN STILL BE AN *ISSUE* GIVEN ALL THAT'S HAPPENED *SINCE?*
PEOPLE ARE *FUNNY*
THANKS. HOW ABOUT *YOU?* *YOU'RE* SO SMART DO *YOU* HAVE ANY INSIGHTS YOU'D LIKE TO SHARE?
HERE, LET ME *ANSWER* FOR YOU
NO
WHEW! *BREAK!*
LET ME TELL YOU, THE DOWNSIDE TO *ACCELERATING* YOUR *METABOLISM*
IS THE ABILITY TO WORK UP A *SWEAT* EVEN AT THE BOTTOM OF THE *OCEAN*
I CAN'T *IMAGINE*, ZEPH. YOU KNEW THE TWINS FROM BEFORE. AM I *FORGETTING?* WERE THEY *ALWAYS* THIS *BAD?*
NOT REALLY. NO.
THEN WHAT IS IT THAT'S COME *BETWEEN* THEM?
MAYBE SOME STUPID *PRIDE* THING? MAYBE A *WOMAN* WHO KNOWS?
BACK TO WORK
HUH. SOME SORT OF ROMANTIC ENTANGLEMENT, SHE SAYS...
...WHICH, BY THE WAY, WAS AN UNCHARACTERISTICALLY INTROSPECTIVE THEORY FOR ZEPH TO OFFER UP...
...ALMOST AS IF...

HEY, HEY! HEY! IT'S YOU, ISN'T IT?
THEY'RE FEUDING OVER YOU!
PROBABLY
BECAUSE ?
THERE'S SOME HISTORY THERE AND NOT HALF AN HOUR BEFORE THE DISASTER WELL, THEY WERE STILL FIGHTING OVER ME
IT'S A MESS
SO OF THE OVER ONE THOUSAND ATLANTEANS I COULD HAVE CHOSEN TO FILL ZEPHYRE'S ROLE ON THIS TEAM I PICKED THE ONE WHO MAKES TWO OF THE OTHERS INSANE
NICE GOING
WHAT, YOU DIDN'T KNOW THAT?
AAAAAH!

ZEPH, RUN!
WHERE? THEY'RE ALL AROUND!
GAMMID! GALVAN! CAPRICIA!
HELP!
I CAN'T GET THERE FAST ENOUGH. THE NEGATION IS HARD ENOUGH TO BEAT ON LAND.
AT LEAST THEY SEEM FOCUSED ON US. I SUPPOSE IT COULD BE WORSE.
THEY COULD HAVE THEIR SIGHTS SET ON THE TOWERS.

BRUTE STRENGTH WON'T DO THEM IN, NOT WHEN TUG'S SO OUTNUMBERED--
--BUT THE ONES GAMMID CAN'T FRY WITH ULTRAVIOLET RADIATION--
--HAVE THEIR BLOOD BOILED BY GALVAN'S MICROWAVES.
I'VE GOT THE LAST ONE I THINK! VERITYN, SCAN THE AREA FOR MORE!
NO OTHERS EXCEPT FOR THE ONE WITH THE AX!"
AX?
BEHIND YOU!
CAPRICIA, LOOK OUT LOOK OUT, LOOK OUT--

AAAAAH!
CAPRICIA!

CAPRICIA, HANG ON! I'VE GOT YOU!
huh. hurrrts.
I KNOW! I KNOW! YOU HAVE TO HEAL YOURSELF!
can't. cannot. cannnt
CAPRICIA CAN YOU HEAR ME? YOU CAN DO THIS! CAPRICIA!
YOU'RE A SHAPESHIFTER! REMEMBER YOUR TRAINING! YOU MANIPULATE YOUR CELLULAR STRUCTURE! THAT'S WHAT YOU DO!
I--I-- AAAAAAH---!
CAPRICIA, PLEASE! TAKE CONTROL OVER YOUR OWN BODY! KNIT IT TOGETHER BEFORE IT'S
JUST KNIT IT TOGETHER!
CAPRICIA, WE CAN'T LOSE YOU -- NOT WITHOUT LOSING, PERIOD!
THEY'RE SMARTER THAN WE THOUGHT! THIS ONE'S ARMED!
CAPRICIA, YOU ALWAYS KNOW WHAT TO DO! WE NEED YOU!
"CAPRICIA!"

aHUH aHUH aHUH
TWINS WHERE ARE THE TWINS ?
THEY RE --
Oh, NO
THEY RE HELPLESS! IF THAT THING EVEN HAS A WEAK SPOT
NEITHER ONE OF THEM CAN FIND IT!
WEAK SPOT ISN T HIS
IT S THEIRS
I CAN PULL MYSELF TOGETHER
BUT YOU HAVE TO aHUH HAVE TO DO THE SAME FOR THEM GET THEM TO POOL THEIR POWERS, OR THEY RE aHUH THEY RE DEAD
DO ANYTHING YOU HAVE TO ZEPHYRE
ANYTHING

GYAAAAH!
FWAM!
ARE YOU OKAY? I DOUBT YOU HURT HIM, BUT THE WAY YOU KNOCKED HIM BACK
BUYS US THE TIME WE NEED BOYS
WE HAVE TO TALK
NOW?
UNLESS YOU DON'T THINK HE'LL SLICE MY HEAD OFF NEXT TIME I TRY THAT
LISTEN TO ME THIS SITUATION BETWEEN US YOU TWO KEEP TRYING TO MAKE THIS A LOVE TRIANGLE
WELL, GUESS WHAT? TO MAKE A TRIANGLE, YOU NEED THREE POINTS
GAMMID GALVAN THE REASON I'VE BEEN RUNNING FROM THIS THE REASON I COULDN'T CHOOSE BETWEEN YOU WAS
WAS BECAUSE I DIDN'T WANT TO HURT YOU
"YOU" MEANING WHICH ONE? ME
OR ME?
MEANING

BOTH
I DON'T WANT EITHER OF YOU
DON'T GET ME WRONG I'VE KNOWN THE TWO OF YOU FOR A LONG TIME, AND I VALUE OUR FRIENDSHIP MORE THAN YOU'D BELIEVE GIVEN WHAT I JUST SAID--
--BUT I'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO PROVE THAT FROM BEYOND THE GRAVE--
--WHICH IS WHERE WE'LL ALL BE UNLESS YOU TWO REMEMBER YOUR MUTUAL LINK AND IT'S NOT ME!
IT'S HOW YOUR POWER MULTIPLIES WHEN YOU STOP YOUR BICKERING AND FIND THAT COMMON WAVELENGTH!
YOU CAN HATE ME FOR ALL THIS LATER PICTURE THAT ALIEN WITH MY FACE IF YOU LIKE I DON'T CARE
I JUST WANT US ALL TO LIVE--AND IF YOU DO, TOO, THEN FOR THE NEXT FIVE SECONDS
--THAT'S THE ONLY COMMONALITY THAT MATTERS
GIVE ME YOUR
GIVE ME YOUR HAND
GO.

I'M NOT THERE TO SEE IT...
...BUT I'M TOLD IT WENT WELL.
ONCE I'M ABLE TO STAND, WE MAKE A SUCCESSFUL HEAD COUNT.
NOT EAGER TO GO THROUGH THAT AGAIN I'M NOT SURE I COULD
VERITYN SAYS THERE AREN'T ANY MORE LURKERS, SO I SUPPOSE WE CAN CALL THAT A VICTORY
NO THANKS TO YOU
MY CONCERNS ARE
"FURTHER-REACHING "ABOVE SUCH MATTERS I KNOW YOUR LINES BETTER THAN YOU DO AT THIS POINT
NOW, IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME, I'D LIKE TO TALK TO SOMEONE WHO DOESN'T EXASPERATE ME
THANKS. NEXT TIME WE NEED TO MIX OIL AND WATER, I KNOW WHO TO COME TO
I'M SORRY I LET IT HAMPER US FOR THIS LONG. IT WAS WAY PAST TIME TO SPEAK UP. IT WASN'T EASY, BUT AT LEAST IT WAS THE TRUTH
REALLY?
EVERY WORD

AND SO CONCLUDES A LOVELY LITTLE INTERLUDE, THEN. HERE'S A LESSON I DIDN'T WANT TO LEARN:
THE NEGATION IS SMARTER THAN WE THOUGHT.
VERITYN, WE'RE ALMOST FINISHED WITH THE TOWERS WILL YOU KEEP WATCH
AND NEXT TIME, MENTION THE WORD "AX" A LITTLE SOONER?
KAY
SHE PUTS A GREAT DEAL OF TRUST IN YOU IT SEEMS YOU HAVE QUITE THE GIFT
NAH. MORE LIKE AN APTITUDE ALL THE ATLANTEANS ARE PRETTY MUCH THE SAME THAT WAY WE JUST TEND TO SPECIALIZE
BUT YOU KNOW THAT
HOW WOULD I?
OH, COME ON I'VE BEEN A SEER EVER SINCE I WAS A LITTLE KID
AS OPPOSED TO ?
I CAN LOOK AT STUFF AND SEE TRUTH WHAT'S REALLY THERE YOU KNOW THAT, TOO
I KNOW YOU ENJOY BARTERING FOR WHAT KNOWLEDGE YOU GLEAN

AND YET, I REMAIN CUTE NOW THAT'S A GIFT WHICH BRINGS US TO THIS QUESTION
WHAT'RE YOU GONNA GIVE ME NOT TO TELL CAPRICIA
--THAT YOU'RE DANIK?

The CrossGen Universe created by Mark Alessi & Gina M. Villa

Mark WAID
WRITER

Steve EPTING
PENCILER

Rick MAGYAR
INKER

Frank D'ARMATA
COLORIST

Troy PETERI with Dave LANPHEAR
LETTERERS

Mark Alessi
Publisher & CEO

Gina M. Villa
Chief Operating Officer

Michael A. Beattie
Chief Financial Officer

Tony Panaccio
Vice President
Product Development

James Breitbeil
Director of
Marketing & Distribution

Ian M. Feller
Manager Media Relations

Barbara Kesel
Head Writer

Brandon Peterson
Art Director

Bart Sears
Assistant Art Director

Pam Davies
Production Director

Sylvia Bretz
Production Assistant

Dave Lanphear
Design Director

Troy Peteri
Design Assistant

Michelle Pugliese
Freelance Coordinator

CROSSGEN COMICS
4
AUG
$2.95
$4.50 CAN
www.crossgen.com
CROSSGEN
Mark Waid
Steve Epting
Rick Magyar
Frank D'Armata
FGD

THE STORY THUS FAR...

THEY WERE THE ATLANTEANS,

a peaceful civilization of artists and philosophers who used their phenomenal mental and physical skills to build an island utopia. They had but one responsibility: to guide and shepherd Earth's newborn race of *homo sapiens* towards a grand and glorious destiny. But when a mysterious cataclysm plunged Atlantis and its people beneath the waves, six -- and only six -- were awakened by a mysterious stranger one thousand centuries later to find their utopia forgotten and in ruins, their brothers and sisters caught in an unshakeable slumber. Capricia, their leader, has orchestrated a plan to revive Atlantis, but she'll have to enact it without Verityn's help, as he and the stranger are off having a very interesting conversation....

The mental and physical abilities of the Atlanteans are identical in nature but not in application. Capricia and her teammates have each channeled their abilities into different skills:

CAPRICIA	TUG	ZEPHYRE	GALVAN & GAMMID	VERITYN
Shapeshifter and empath	Telekinetic strongman	Hypermetabolic intellectual	Manipulators of the electromagnetic spectrum	Seer of all truths

Crux™ Vol. 1, Issue 4, AUGUST 2001. FIRST PRINTING. Published by CrossGeneration Comics, Inc. Office of publication: 4023 Tampa Road, Suite 2400, Oldsmar, Florida 34677. CrossGen®, CrossGen Comics®, CrossGeneration® and CrossGeneration Comics® are registered trademarks of CrossGeneration Comics, Inc. Crux™, the CrossGen sigil™, and all prominent characters are ™ and © 2001 CrossGeneration Comics, Inc. All rights reserved. The entire contents of this book are ™ and © 2001 CrossGeneration Comics, Inc. The stories, incidents, and characters in this publication are fictional. Any similarities to persons living or dead are purely coincidental. With the exception of artwork used for review purposes, none of the contents of this book may be reproduced in any form without the express written consent of CrossGeneration Comics, Inc. PRINTED IN CANADA

The Devastator team

THE SHORT EXPLANATION IS THIS:
GRAVITY IS OVERRATED.
IT TAKES THE GRAVITATIONAL FORCE OF OUR ENTIRE PLANET TO HOLD A SHARD OF METAL DOWN--
--BUT EVEN THE TINIEST MAGNET CAN PICK IT UP.
ELECTROMAGNETIC FORCE IS THE TRUE POWERHOUSE. BECAUSE MATTER -- A.K.A. FERMIONS --AND ENERGY -- A.K.A. BOSONS-- ARE THE TWO HALVES OF ELECTROMAGNETISM--
--THEY AFFECT ONE ANOTHER SO DIRECTLY AND DRAMATICALLY THAT THE BEST GRAVITY CAN DO IS WATCH FROM THE SIDELINES.
ATLANTIS, LIKE ALL SOLID MATTER, IS ESSENTIALLY A COLLECTION OF FERMIONS.
AND SINCE THE TWINS GALVAN AND GAMMID ARE, FOR ALL INTENTS AND PURPOSES, LIVING BOSONS --
--THEY CAN WRENCH ATLANTIS FREE FROM THE CONSTRAINTS OF EARTHLY GRAVITY.

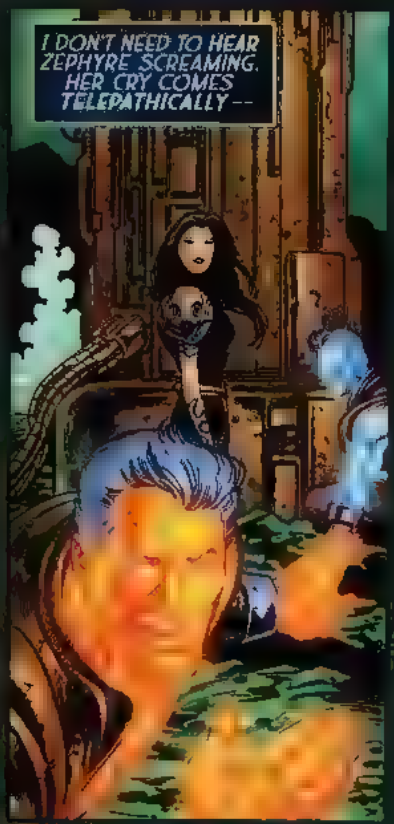
IN THEORY.
PUSH! PUSH!
NOTHING'S HAPPENING! WE'RE NOT MOVING A SINGLE
AAAAGGH!
I DON'T UNDERSTAND
TOWERS SHOULD AMPLIFY OUR OUTPUT
MORE THAN ENOUGH TO RAISE THE CITY
BUT IT WON'T
WON'T MOVE AN INCH!
I DON'T GET IT. WE BUILT THESE TOWERS SPECIFICALLY TO TURN YOUR EM WAVES INTO AN ANTI GRAVITY FIELD
THEY'RE CHANNELING A MONUMENTAL AMOUNT OF ENERGY
IT HAS TO BE GOING SOMEWHERE

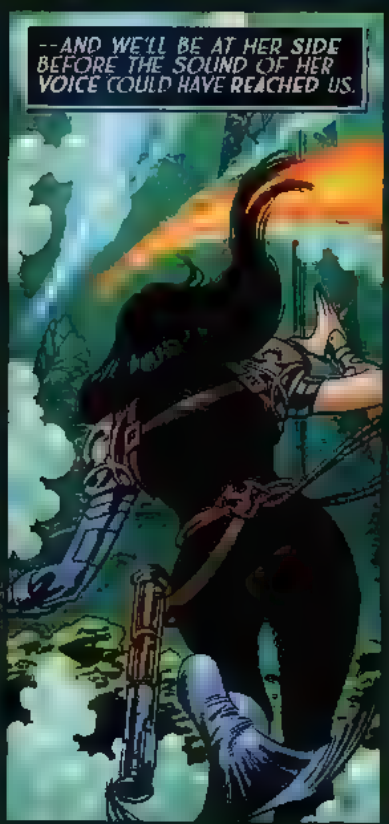
SOMETHING!

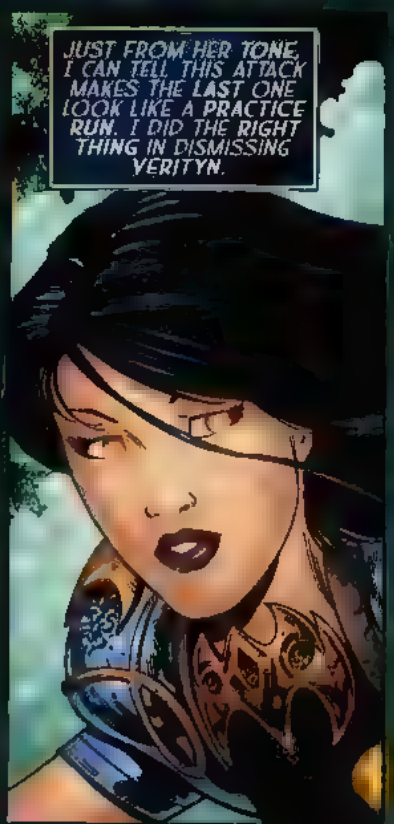
ARE THE MECHANICS FLAWED?
VERITYN'S A SEER, RIGHT? CAN HE TAKE A LOOK INSIDE?
IF HE WERE NEARBY
TO KEEP HIM OUT OF TROUBLE
HE'S NOT IN YOUR CARE? THE NEGATION
DOESN'T NEED TO ADD A TEN-YEAR-OLD TO THEIR LIST OF VICTIMS
THAT'S WHY I SENT HIM AWAY WITH THE STRANGER
SOME SORT OF FANCIFUL TOY?
YAWN
AN UNLIMITED SUPPLY OF CANDY?
WHAT AM I, A CHILD?
YOU DON'T HAVE MANY FRIENDS YOUR AGE DO YOU?
NO! WHAT'S THAT ABOUT?
I'M LEARNING
SO HOW LONG HAVE YOU KNOWN THAT I'M PANIK?
WHAT DO YOU THINK? SINCE I LAID EYES ON YOU
AND YET, YOU SAID NOTHING TO THE OTHERS
YET
YET
FALSE CAPRICIA HATES YOU
WHICH IS PROBABLY WHY YOU CHANGED YOUR FACE, RIGHT? IF SHE RECOGNIZED YOU SHE'D CUT YOUR HEAD OFF
SO I'VE KEPT MY MOUTH SHUT FOR NOW CAUSE I BET THAT LOPPABLE HEAD CAN FIGURE OUT A BETTER BRIBE FOR MY SILENCE THAN CANDY
SEERS DON'T TRADITIONALLY HAVE SUCH A MERCENARY ATTITUDE TOWARDS THEIR GIFT OF TRUE SIGHT
BLAH BLAH LESS TALKING MORE BRIBING
WHAT?

NO KIDDING YOU HELPED DESIGN THE STASIS CRADLES?
DON'T OVERSTATE IT. I JUST RAN THE MATH ON THE "AUTO-REVIVE" SUBPROGRAM BUT THAT ALLOWS ME A PRETTY SIMPLE OBSERVATION
WHATEVER HAPPENED TO SINK US MUST HAVE CRIPPLED THE FISSION MATRIX AND FOULED THE ENVIROGRID, INHIBITING THE JOULE TO CRADLE ENERGY RATIO ON THE PER-UNIT MICROSENSORS THAT IS TO SAY
THERE WASN'T ENOUGH JUICE TO WAKE US UP
WE... YES
WHICH IS WHY WE'RE LAYING CABLE FROM THE TOWERS TO FIX THAT
THE WAY I'VE ENGINEERED THIS IF WE ADD OUR OWN ENERGY TO THE TWINS', WE GET TO POWER UP HISTORY'S BIGGEST ALARM CLOCK
I LOVE THE WAY YOU PUT THINGS. ARE YOU SEEING ANYONE?
Umm
BECAUSE YOU SOUND JUST LIKE MY SISTER. YOU SHOULD MEET HER. IN FACT, IF SHE WERE HERE NOW

SHE'D BE DEAD
WE ARE
CAPRICIA!


I DON'T NEED TO HEAR ZEPHYRE SCREAMING. HER CRY COMES TELEPATHICALLY--


--AND WE'LL BE AT HER SIDE BEFORE THE SOUND OF HER VOICE COULD HAVE REACHED US.


JUST FROM HER TONE, I CAN TELL THIS ATTACK MAKES THE LAST ONE LOOK LIKE A PRACTICE RUN. I DID THE RIGHT THING IN DISMISSING VERITYN.

AT LEAST HE'S IN NO DANGER.
BOY YOU'RE NOT EVEN *TRYING* ANYMORE IS THAT WHY CAPRICIA *HATES* YOU SO MUCH? CAUSE YOU GIVE *UP* TOO EASY?
HARDLY YOU WOULDN'T *UNDERSTAND* OUR *RELATIONSHIP*
BECAUSE *YOU* DON'T?
YOU'RE VERY EASILY *UNDERESTIMATED*, VERITYN
I KNOW IT'S *GREAT*
I SUSPECT CAPRICIA HOLDS ME LARGELY *RESPONSIBLE* FOR THE FATE WHICH BEFELL *ATLANTIS*
ARE YOU?
IT DOESN'T *MATTER* WHAT MATTERS IS HOW CAPRICIA *ACTS* BASED ON WHAT SHE *BELIEVES* SHE'S VERY *VOLATILE*
WHICH IS WHAT MAKES THIS WHOLE ARRANGEMENT SO *LUCRATIVE* STILL LOOKING FOR THAT *BARTER DANIK*
AS I RECALL, *VERITYN*, YOUR UPBRINGING FORCED UPON YOU FAR MORE *INDEPENDENCE* THAN *GUIDANCE*. YOUR *SELF CENTERED NATURE* IS FORGIVEN
GENERALLY
BUT IF YOU ARE TO BE OF *USE* TO ME, YOUR PERSPECTIVES REQUIRE AN *EXPANSION*
YOU NEED A GLIMPSE OF SOMETHING *BIGGER* AND *THAT*
THAT IS WHAT I WILL *TRADE* FOR YOUR *SILENCE*
THAT?
WHAT IS *THAT*?
RESPONSIBILITY

YOU NOW STAND *UNIQUE*, SEER I HAVE SHOWN YOU THREADS OF A *TAPESTRY* FAR MORE INTRICATE THAN YOU OR *ANYONE* CAN YET *IMAGINE*
HAVE OPENED YOUR *EYES*
THE *NEGATION*!

BUGS. MORE OF THEM THAN EVER.
FOR A BUNCH OF ARTISTS AND PHILOSOPHERS, WE'VE BECOME RATHER ADEPT AT MEETING THEM IN BATTLE.
THIS IS NOT A POINT OF PRIDE.
WHAT ARE THESE THINGS? WHERE DO THEY COME FROM?
AND HOW DO WE GET RID OF THEM?
MOVE THE BATTLE! WE CAN'T LET THEM SMASH THE CRADLES! WE
TESH
TESH
TESH
NO!

NO!
AAAAAA!
DEAD THEY'RE DEAD THEY'RE
ZEPHYRE, HERE! TAKE MY HAND!
ZEPHYRE'S RIGHT! WE'VE GOT TO GET AWAY FROM HERE BEFORE THERE'S ANY MORE DAMAGE!
GOOD THOUGHT
WHERE DO YOU SUGGEST WE GO?
THERE'S NOT A YARD OF GROUND THEY'RE NOT COVERING
SOULS OF MYHRRA... THEY'RE NOT AN ARMY THIS TIME.
THEY'RE A BLANKET.
NOW WHAT?

HOW'D THERE GET TO BE SO MANY?
WE DIDN'T RE-CHECK THE TOWERS ONCE THEY WERE BUILT. ALL I REALLY HAD TO DO WAS LOOK TO SEE
THE NEGATION RIGGED ONE OF THEM--HAD IT BLEEDING ENOUGH ENERGY TO CREATE A DIMENSIONAL GATE
WHAT N
YOU IDIOT! I TRUSTED YOU TO KEEP VERITYN SAFE! WHY DID YOU BRING HIM BACK?
BECAUSE I ASKED HIM TO. I SEE A WAY OUT
LISTEN
AND I'M JUST STUNNED ENOUGH BY VERITYN'S TONE OF VOICE THAT I DO...
...BECAUSE THERE'S SOMETHING ODD ABOUT IT. IT TAKES HIM EXPLAINING HIS ENTIRE PLAN UNTIL I PUT MY FINGER ON WHAT'S DIFFERENT.
HE'S BEEN TALKING FOR A FULL MINUTE--
--AND HE HASN'T POPPED OFF WITH A SINGLE WISECRACK.
WHERE DID YOU COME FROM, LITTLE MAN?
--BUT WE'LL NEVER GET THROUGH THEM AND OUTSIDE THE TOWERS WHERE WE NEED TO BE
UNLESS YOU CLEAR A PATH! DO IT!
AND THERE'S THE PLAN'S GREAT FLAW. THE STRANGER DOESN'T PLAY WELL WITH OTHERS. WE'VE YET TO SEE HIM LIFT ONE FINGER ON OUR BEHALF.

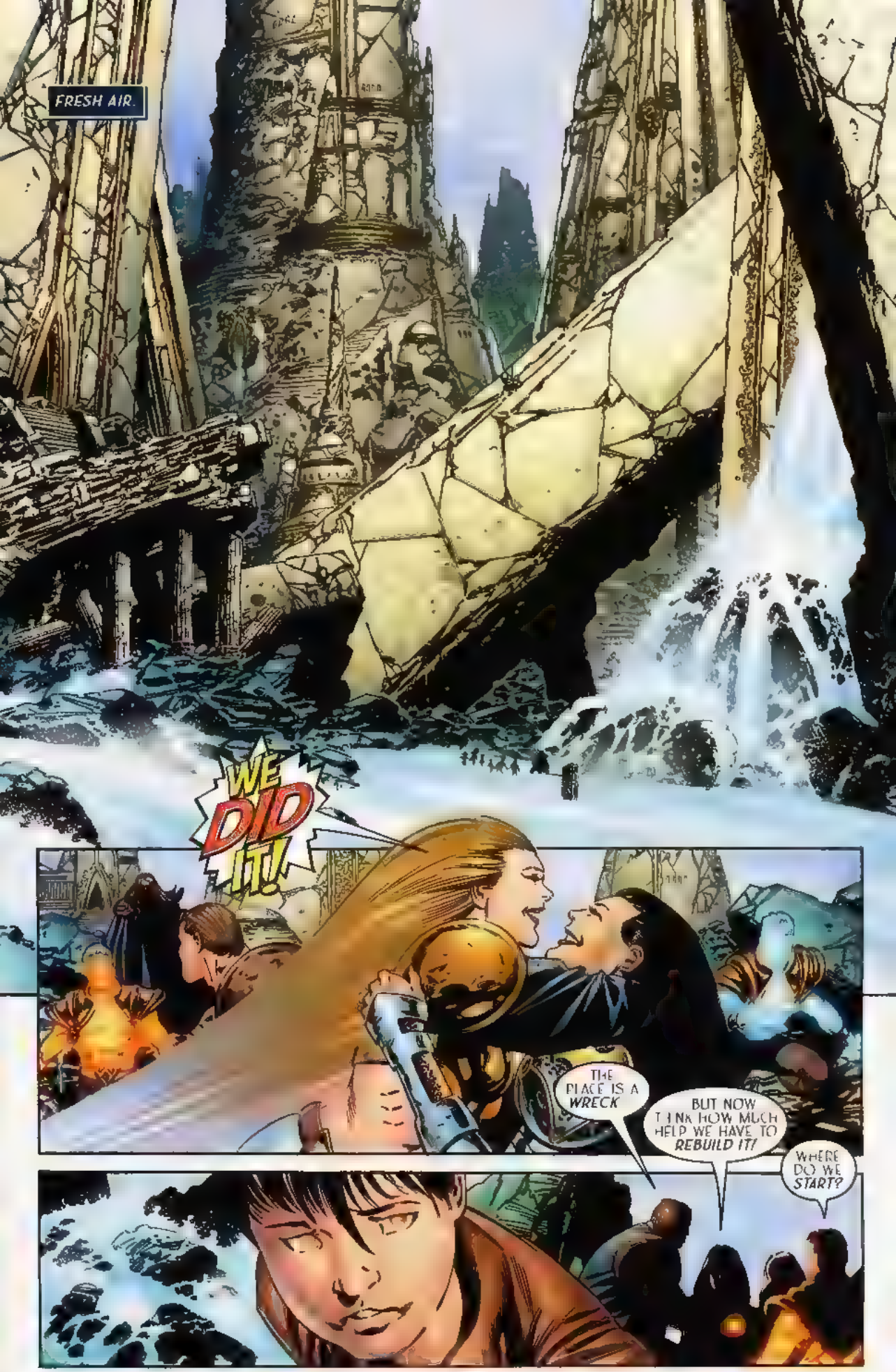
VERY WELL
...
LITTLE MAN...!
THEY'RE ALREADY BREAKING THROUGH!
GO! GO!
FAR ENOUGH!
GAMM D'GALVAN! TAKE YOUR STATIONS!
THE REST OF YOU FORM A CHAIN - GIVE THEM A BATTERY TO DRAW FROM!

HURRY!
VERITYN SAYS THE TOWERS ARE NO LONGER SIPHONING OUR ENERGY! THAT MEANS THEY'RE STILL POISED TO NEGATE GRAVITY!
IF THE TWINS MAKE A SLIGHT ADJUSTMENT IN SCOPE AND RANGE-

WE DON'T HAVE TO USE NUL GRAV ON AN ENTIRE ISLAND CITY
JUST ON THE VERMIN CRAWLING THROUGH IT!
THEY RE GONE!
THEN DON'T STOP! GIVE IT EVERYTHING! WE CAN DO THIS!
OUR FRIENDS OUR FAMILIES -- THEY RE COUNTING ON US!

WE CANNOT LET THEM DOWN!
NOT AGAIN!

EVERYTHING'S BLACK.
I DON'T EVEN REALIZE MY EYES ARE CLOSED UNTIL I'M OVERCOME BY A FAMILIAR SMELL.


FRESH AIR.
WE DID IT!
THE PLACE IS A WRECK
BUT NOW I THINK HOW MUCH HELP WE HAVE TO REBUILD IT!
WHERE DO WE START?

I THINK BY MAKING OURSELVES LOOK PARADEWORTHY, FRANKLY
PREPARE TO BE STAMPEDED BY ELEVEN HUNDRED VERY GRATEFUL ATLANTEANS THEY'LL PROBABLY
GUYS?
OVER HERE
VERITYN'S RIGHT WE SHOULDN'T WAIT FOR THEM TO COME TO US.
NOW THAT THEY'RE AWAKE, THEY'LL CERTAINLY WANT TO KNOW WHAT HAPPENED
SO WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO TELL THEM?
IT DOESN'T MATTER.
WE HAD IT PLANNED. WE KNEW HOW TO REVIVE THEM.
WHY DIDN'T IT WORK?
WHY DIDN'T IT WORK?

The CrossGen Universe created by Mark Alessi & Gina M. Villa

Mark WAID
WRITER

Steve EPTING
PENCILER

Rick MAGYAR
INKER

Frank D'ARMATA
COLORIST

Troy PETERI with
Dave LANPHEAR
LETTERERS

Mark Alessi
Publisher & CEO

Gina M. Villa
Chief Operating Officer

Michael A. Beattie
Chief Financial Officer

Tony Panaccio
Vice President
Product Development

James Breitbeil
Director of
Marketing & Distribution

Ian M. Feller
Director of Corporate
Communications

Barbara Kesel
Head Writer

Brandon Peterson
Art Director

Bart Sears
Assistant Art Director

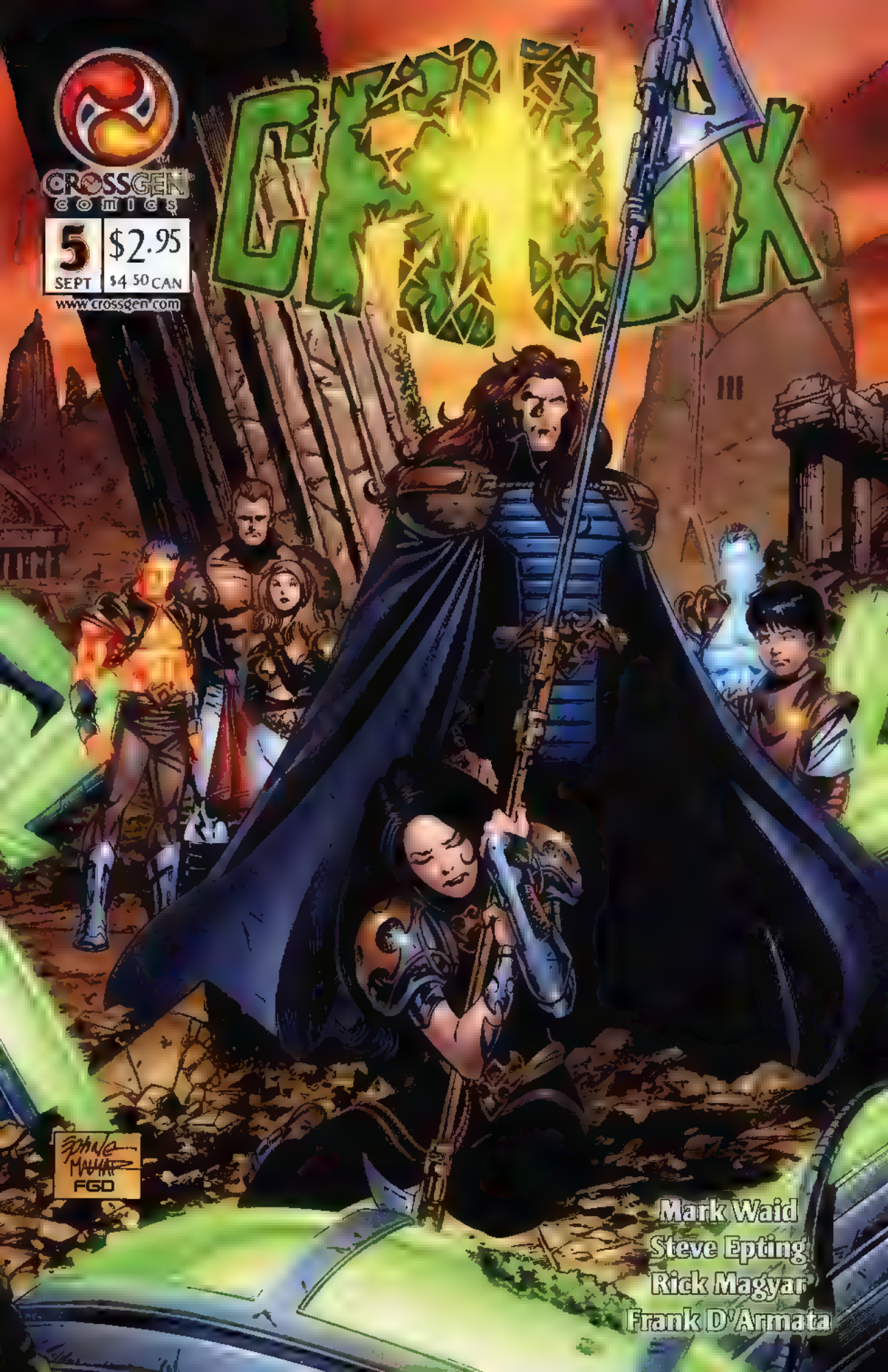
Pam Davies
Production Director

Sylvia Bretz
Production Assistant

Dave Lanphear
Design Director

Troy Peteri
Design Assistant

Michelle Pugliese
Freelance Coordinator


CROSSGEN comics
5
SEPT
$2.95
$4.50 CAN
www.crossgen.com
Mark Waid
Steve Epting
Rick Magyar
Frank D'Armata

THE STORY THUS FAR...

THEY WERE THE ATLANTEANS,

a peaceful civilization of artists and philosophers who used their phenomenal mental and physical skills to build an island utopia. They had but one responsibility: to guide and shepherd Earth's newborn race of *homo sapiens* towards a grand and glorious destiny. But when a mysterious cataclysm plunged Atlantis and its people beneath the waves, six — and only six — were awakened by a mysterious stranger one thousand centuries later. Despite the challenges of a world unfamiliar to them, despite their losses and their loneliness, they have since put their all into one grand stratagem designed to revive their friends and loved ones.

It failed.

The mental and physical abilities of the Atlanteans are identical in nature but not in application. Capricia and her teammates have each channeled their abilities into different skills:

CAPRICIA	TUG	ELPHYRE	GALVAN & GAMMIC	VERITYN
Shapeshifter and empath	Telekinetic strongman	Hypermetabolic intellectual	Manipulators of the electromagnetic spectrum	Seer of all truths

Crux™ Vol. 1, Issue 3 SEPTEMBER 2001 FIRST PRINTING Published by CrossGeneration Comics, Inc. Office of publication: 4023 Tampa Road Suite 2400 Oldsmar, Florida 34677 CrossGen®, CrossGen Comics®, CrossGeneration®, and CrossGeneration Comics® are registered trademarks of CrossGeneration Comics, Inc. Crux™, the CrossGen sigil™ and all prominent characters are ™ and © 2001 CrossGeneration Comics, Inc. All rights reserved. The entire contents of this book are ™ and © 2001 CrossGeneration Comics, Inc. The stories, incidents, and characters in this publication are fictional. Any similarities to persons living or dead are purely coincidental. With the exception of artwork used for review purposes, none of the contents of this book may be reproduced in any form without the express written consent of CrossGeneration Comics, Inc. PRINTED IN CANADA

The_Devastator scan

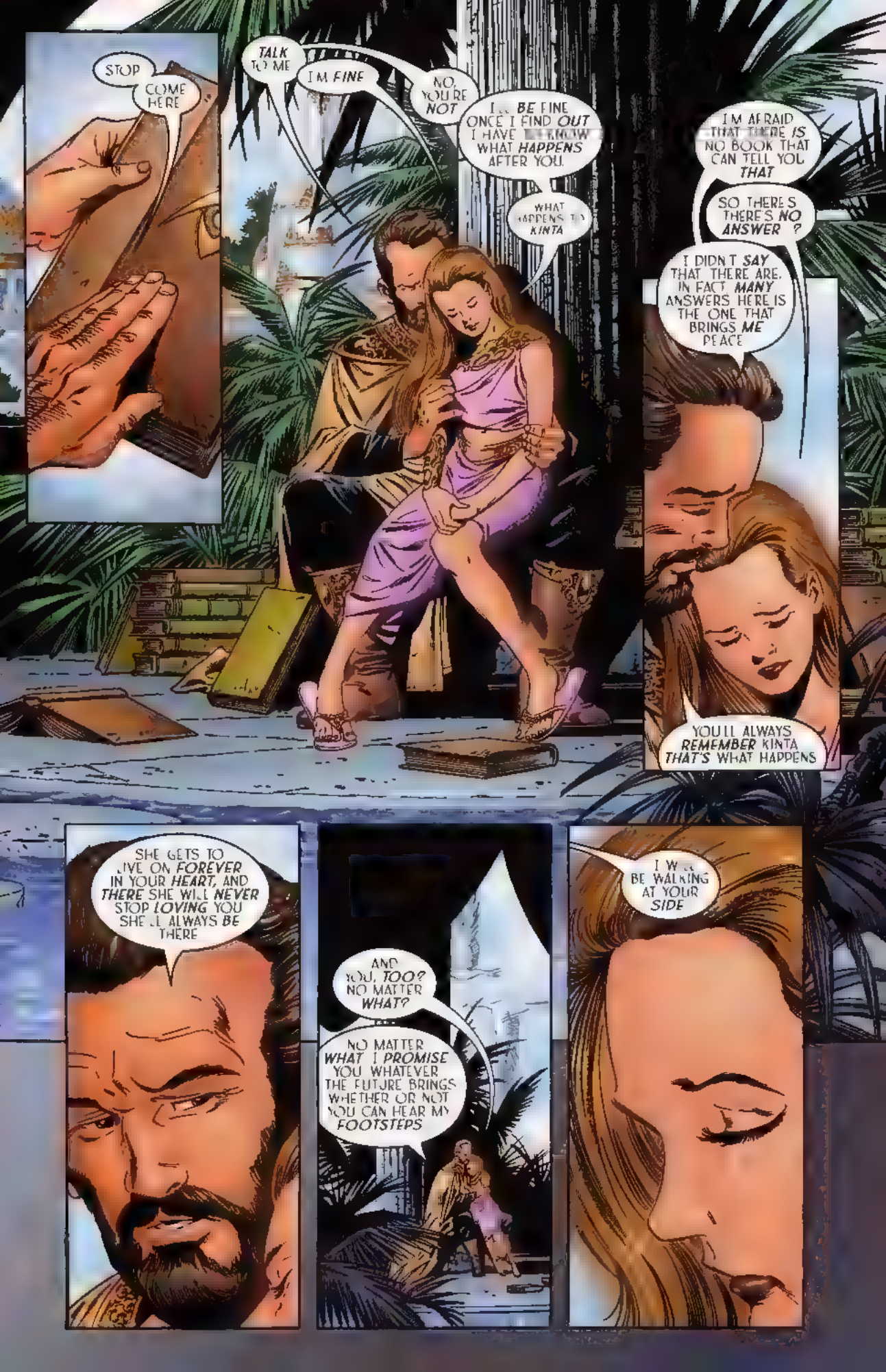
GET LOST
TREOLONA IT'S NOT LIKE --
WAIT! WAIT WAIT! WAIT! LISTEN TO
LONA AT LEAST GET UNDER THE RAINSHIELD BEFORE
BEFORE I GET WET? MAYBE I LIKE THE RAIN! MAYBE THAT'S ONE OF THE THINGS YOU'VE FORGOTTEN ABOUT ME..
LIKE, oh THAT YOU PROMISED NEVER TO LIE TO ME, YOU LUMMOX!
WHEN DID I--?
THAT'S IT! DIG DEEPER!
YOU TOLD ME YOU'D BE OVERSEEING THE VIADUCT RECONSTRUCTION ALL DAY YESTERDAY SO GUESS WHAT?
I DECIDED TO SURPRISE YOU BY BRINGING LUNCH!
ONLY YOU WEREN'T THERE! YOU HADN'T BEEN THERE AT ALL!
AND SO WHAT DO I DO? FIVE SECONDS AGO, I ASK YOU AGAIN! I GIVE YOU ONE MORE CHANCE --
AND AGAIN YOU LOOK ME RIGHT IN THE EYE AND TRY TO TELL ME THAT YOU WERE
-- WERE --
WHAT? WHAT'S SO FUNNY?
HEY! DON'T YOU DARE WALK AWAY FROM ME MISTER! ARE YOU LAUGHING AT ME?
WILL YOU SAY SOMETHING?

OKAY
THEODONA DO YOU REMEMBER WHEN WE THOUGHT MY MOM WAS GOING TO DIE AND YOU SAT UP WITH ME ALL NIGHT EVEN THOUGH YOU HAD EXAMS?
YES BUT WHAT DOES THAT
DO YOU REMEMBER THE TIME I THOUGHT I'D FAILED AS AN ARCHITECT AND YOU SHOWED UP AT MY FRONT DOOR DRESSED AS THE ICADEAN BRIDGE?
YES
DO YOU REMEMBER THAT TODAY'S THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE DAY WE MET?
NO
I DO
DO YOU LIKE IT?

THAT REALLY WHAT I LOOK LIKE ?
TUG, I I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY IT'S GORGEOUS THIS IS WHAT YOU WERE ?
I WANTED TO SURPRISE YOU BUT FOUNTAINS ARE TRICKY TO ENGINEER TOOK ME ALL YESTERDAY TO FINISH
I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY WHATEVER GAVE YOU THE IDEA?
EASY THE CITY FATHERS WERE LOOKING FOR SOMETHING BEAUTIFUL IN THIS SPOT
I PROMISED THEM SOMETHING THAT COULD BE ADMIRED AND LOVED UNTIL THE END OF TIME

SWEETHEART
DARLING
DARLING
DAUGHTER
WHAT IN
CREATION ARE
YOU LOOKING
FOR *THIS*
TIME?
SWEETHEART?

PERHAPS IF I KNEW WHAT IT WAS, I COULD HELP YOU SEARCH
SOMEWHERE! WHERE IS IT? MUST BE HERE! HAS TO BE!
THEN AGAIN, I SUPPOSE YOU'D HAVE TO REALIZE I WAS EVEN IN THE ROOM FOR THAT TO HAPPEN
ZEPHYRE? ZEPHYRE, WHAT'S WRONG?
I CAN'T FIND IT! STUPID PEOPLE! STUPID BOOKS! STUPID!
WHY WON'T ANYBODY GIVE ME A STUPID ANSWER?
AN ANSWER TO WHAT?
WHAT CONCEIVABLE QUESTION COULD POSSIBLY HAVE YOU IN THIS MUCH OF A--


STOP
COME HERE
TALK TO ME
I'M FINE
NO, YOU'RE NOT
I... BE FINE ONCE I FIND OUT I HAVE [illegible] WHAT HAPPENS AFTER YOU.
WHAT HAPPENS TO KINTA
I'M AFRAID THAT THERE IS NO BOOK THAT CAN TELL YOU THAT
SO THERE'S THERE'S NO ANSWER ?
I DIDN'T SAY THAT THERE ARE. IN FACT MANY ANSWERS HERE IS THE ONE THAT BRINGS ME PEACE
YOU'LL ALWAYS REMEMBER KINTA THAT'S WHAT HAPPENS
SHE GETS TO LIVE ON FOREVER IN YOUR HEART, AND THERE SHE WILL NEVER STOP LOVING YOU SHE'LL ALWAYS BE THERE
AND YOU, TOO? NO MATTER WHAT?
NO MATTER WHAT I PROMISE YOU WHATEVER THE FUTURE BRINGS WHETHER OR NOT YOU CAN HEAR MY FOOTSTEPS
I WILL BE WALKING AT YOUR SIDE

W... HAVE TO ACCEPT THE TRUTH, GAMMID
YOU ARE FAR MORE ALIKE THAN YOU KNOW
WITH A... DUE RESPECT, DIZOR, SIR HARDLY CAN GALVAN DO THIS? CAN HE PAINT A TREE WITH ULTRAVIOLET AND MAKE IT INVISIBLE?
YES. TRUE, HE IS MORE COMFORTABLE AND PRACTICED MANIPULATING THE INFRARED END OF THE SPECTRUM
BUT AS I HAVE SPENT THESE LAST FEW YEARS APPARENTLY NOT TEACHING THE TWO OF YOU, NEITHER TWIN IS UNIQUE YOU BOTH
WHAT, DO WE HAVE ALL DAY?
YOU WANT TO MAKE SOMETHING DISAPPEAR --
CHOOM
THERE'S A LOT TO BE SAID FOR EXPEDIENCE
Y KNOW, FOR A GUY WHO M SSES HALF H S OWN CLASSES YOU'VE GOT A LOT OF NERVE CRASHING ONE OF MINE!
=SIGH=
Oh, BIG DEAL OUR DISCIPLINE IS SUPPOSED TO REFLECT PASSION YOU COULDN'T MAKE A SANDWICH HOT
I COULD TOO! YOU WANT MICROWAVES? I COULD OUTPOWER YOU IN MY SLEEP!
GENTLEMEN
WHY IS IT ALWAYS ABOUT COMPETITION WITH YOU?
GENTLEMEN --
WITH ME? YOU'RE THE SHOW-OFF!

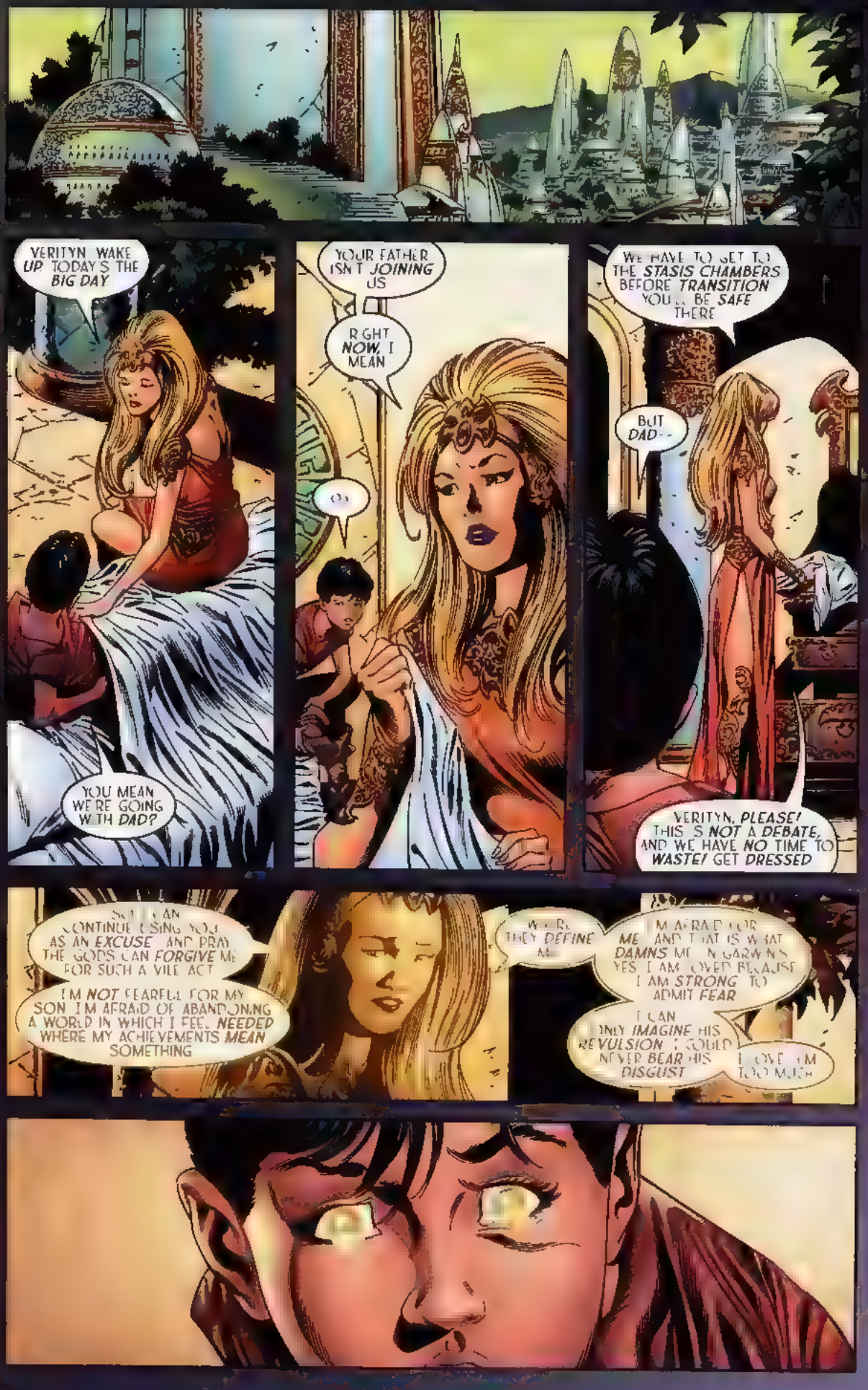
GENTLEMEN
YOU WISH TO SEE POWER?
THOOM
THAT
S POWER
HAH A A HOW--? THAT FELT GREAT WHAT WAS. ?
WH-WHY WHY DIDN T YOU TEACH US THAT BEFORE?
BECAUSE I D HOPED YOU D LEARN IT ON YOUR OWN

AS I HAVE TAUGHT GENERATIONS *BEFORE* YOU, THOSE WHO STUDY IN *ANY* DISCIPLINE, *IF* THEY *BROADEN THEIR MINDS*.
IF THEY EMBRACE THE CONCEPT OF LEARNING NOT ONLY FROM *WITHIN* BUT FROM *ONE ANOTHER*
THOSE ARE THE PUPILS WHO FIND *NO LIMITS*
NEVER HAS IT BEEN NECESSARY TO *FORCE* THIS LESSON UPON MY STUDENTS, BUT I *GUARANTEE* YOU WILL NEVER *FORGET* IT
GIVEN THE PRICE YOU'VE JUST *PAID*
WAIT! *PRICE*? *WHAT* PRICE?
YOU LEFT ME NO CHOICE BUT TO *ALTER* YOU TO *DIMINISH* YOUR ENERGIES SOMEWHAT
THAT EXHILARATING, SUBLIME BLAST OF *POWER* YOU JUST EXPERIENCED? FROM THIS DAY FORTH, *NEITHER* TWIN WILL EVER *EVER* BE ABLE TO *ACHIEVE* IT *AGAIN*
WITHOUT *HELP* FROM THE *OTHER*
HE'S *JOKING* HE WOULDN'T *DARE* !
ONE DIZOR HASN'T MADE A *JOKE* IN EVER
AND, *TWO* THIS IS *EXACTLY* THE KIND OF HOLIER THAN-THOU STUNT HE *WOULD* PULL!
TO *GIVE* ME THAT WITH *ONE* HAND, THEN TAKE IT AWAY WITH THE *OTHER* !
GIVE *YOU*? I WAS THERE *TOO*!
YEAH. THANKS *LOADS* FOR *THAT*
SOUNDS LIKE WE'RE GONNA BE SPENDING A *LOT* OF TIME TOGETHER FROM NOW ON, HUH?
Oh, *PLEASE* RUB IT IN! THAT OLD MAN'S FIXED US *BUT GOOD*! NOW WE'RE *STUCK* WITH EACH OTHER WHETHER WE LIKE IT OR
NOT
MANIPULATIVE OLD *BASTARD* JUST JUST
GET *AWAY* FROM YOU? WITH *PLEASURE*!

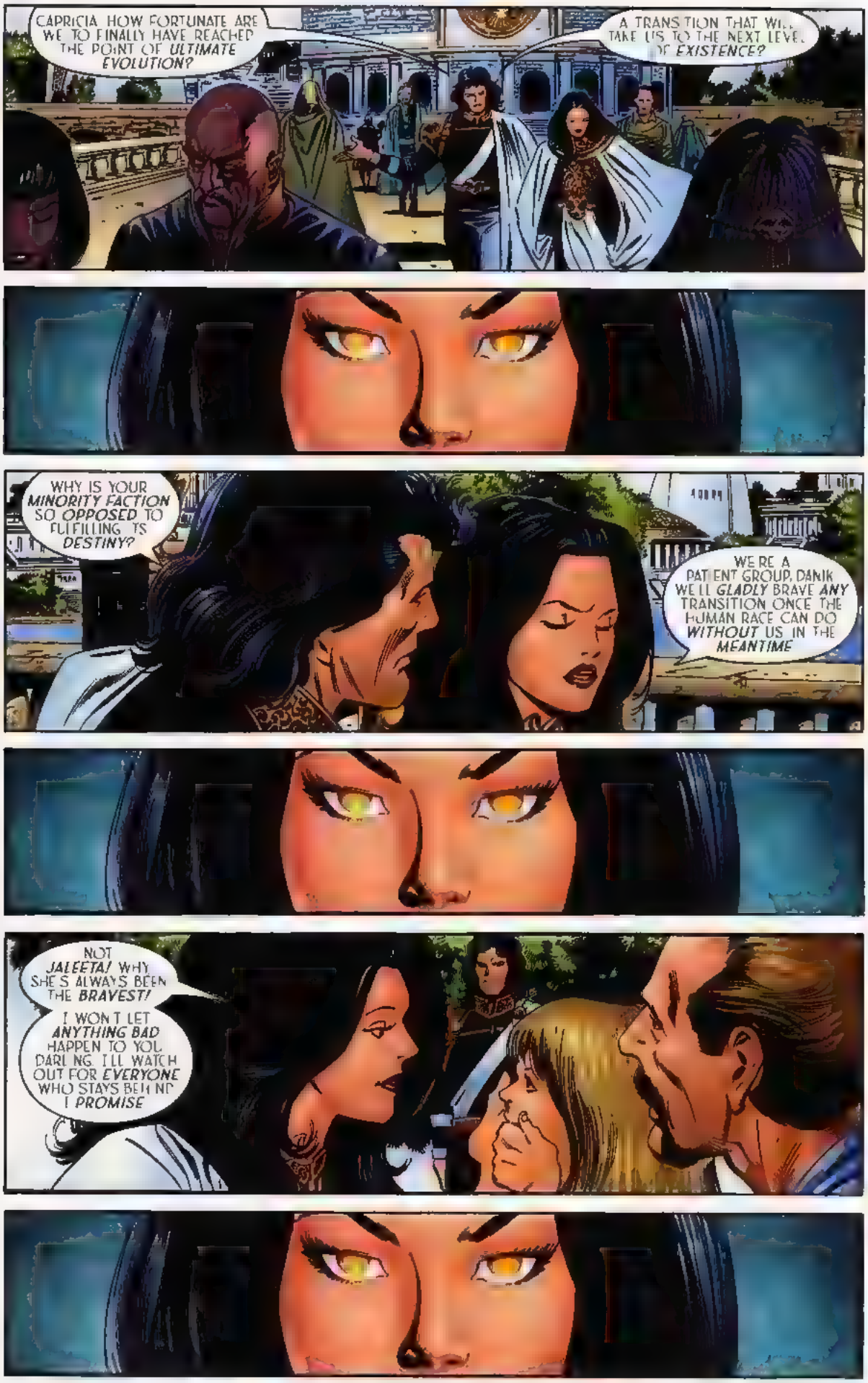
?
THANK
YOU

I HAVE HAD IT PAST THE BREAKPOINT WITH YOUR *SELFISHNESS*, GARWIN!
A *GOOD* FATHER WOULD KNOW THAT HIS *SON* COMES *FOREMOST!*
HOW AM I SELFISH, EUNA? *PARTICIPATING* IN THE *TRANSITION* IS IN *EVERYONE'S* BEST INTEREST -- *INCLUDING* VERITYN'S!
YOU DON'T *KNOW* THAT I WILL *NOT* HAVE HIM THRUST INTO THE *UNKNOWN!*
YOU MEAN YOU WILL NOT HAVE HIM *BENEFIT* FROM IT IF YOU COULD *SEE* YOURSELF.
ALL THAT TIME AGO
THAT *COURAGE* IS OUR SON'S *LEGACY!* YOU'D TEACH HIM *COWARDICE* INSTEAD?
DON'T YOU
VOICES *DOWN.* WE'LL *WAKE* HIM
YOU ARE *CELEBRATED* FOR YOUR ACTS OF *BRAVERY!* IF YOU'LL *REMEMBER,* YOUR *FEARLESSNESS* IS WHAT MADE ME FALL IN *LOVE* WITH YOU
DON'T YOU SPEAK TO *ME* OF *COWARDICE! YOU'RE* THE ONE RUNNING *AWAY!*
I'M *NOT*
EUNA, OUR *RACIAL DESTINY LIES* IN TRANSITION. WHY MUST YOU BE *SOLD* ON A *SPIRITUAL JOURNEY* TO A MORE *JOYOUS EXISTENCE?*
THAT IS WHERE WE *BELONG* -- BUT SINCE I CAN'T *FORCE* YOU THERE, THAT IS WHERE *I* BELONG.
IT'S ALL *THEORY,* GARWIN! AND NOW, BECAUSE I WON'T LET YOU GAMBLE VERITYN'S LIFE ON *CONJECTURE* -- YOU'RE LEAVING? JUST LIKE *THAT?*
I'M WAITING FOR YOU TO SAY *SOMETHING* TO CONVINCE ME THAT I HAVE *ANOTHER OPTION*
WELL?

UNDERSTAND HOW HARD
ONCE UPON A TIME THERE WAS A GIRL WHOSE STRENGTH AND DETERMINATION SET A STANDARD FOR ALL THE LAND
AND SHE LOVED ME MORE THAN THE SONGBIRDS LOVE THE SUNRISE
MEANT DEPENDENCY
AND THAT DEPENDENCY COMPROMISED THE STRENGTH SHE WAS LEGENDARY FOR
I AM STANDING AT THE EDGE OF HEAVEN. I AM ABOUT TO UNDERGO A TRANSCENDENCE TO GLORY
AND I WOULD GIVE IT UP THIS MOMENT IF IT THOUGHT SHE LOVED ME STILL


VERITYN WAKE UP TODAY'S THE BIG DAY
YOU MEAN WE'RE GOING WITH DAD?
YOUR FATHER ISN'T JOINING US
RIGHT NOW, I MEAN
OH
WE HAVE TO GET TO THE STASIS CHAMBERS BEFORE TRANSITION YOU'LL BE SAFE THERE
BUT DAD--
VERITYN, PLEASE! THIS IS NOT A DEBATE, AND WE HAVE NO TIME TO WASTE! GET DRESSED
SO I CAN CONTINUE USING YOU AS AN EXCUSE AND PRAY THE GODS CAN FORGIVE ME FOR SUCH A VILE ACT
I'M NOT FEARFUL FOR MY SON. I'M AFRAID OF ABANDONING A WORLD IN WHICH I FEEL NEEDED WHERE MY ACHIEVEMENTS MEAN SOMETHING
WHO BE THEY DEFINE ME
I'M AFRAID FOR ME AND THAT IS WHAT DAMNS ME IN GARWYN'S YES I AM LOVED BECAUSE I AM STRONG TO ADMIT FEAR
I CAN ONLY IMAGINE HIS REVULSION I COULD NEVER BEAR HIS DISGUST
I LOVE HIM TOO MUCH

VERITYN, HURRY!
NO! LISTEN TO ME! YOU GOTTA TELL HIM THAT WE CAN BE WITH DAD IF--
TELL HIM WHAT, VERITYN? HE'S MADE HIS CHOICE AS I HAVE MADE OURS
BUT YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND!
LISTEN TO ME!
FINE! WHAT? WHAT IS IT?
HE DOESN'T WANT TO DO THIS! I MEAN, HE DOES -- BUT YOU'RE SO BRAVE AND YOU WERE A GIRL ONCE AND AND--
I DON'T KNOW! I DON'T KNOW HOW TO EXPLAIN! I--
YOU JUST GOTTA TELL HIM! TELL HIM NOW! LOOK!
TELL DAD YOU LOVE HIM BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE!
YOU GOTTA TELL HIM!
HONEY
HONEY IT WOULDN'T MATTER I'M SORRY
IT WOULD, TOO! YOU GOTTA TELL HIM!
VERITYN HUSH! IT'S TIME!
NOOOO! TELL HIM!
IT'LL IT'LL BE OKAY, SWEETIE MOMMY WILL SEE YOU SOON
TELL HIM!
TELL HIM!


CAPRICIA HOW FORTUNATE ARE WE TO FINALLY HAVE REACHED THE POINT OF *ULTIMATE EVOLUTION?*
A TRANSITION THAT WILL TAKE US TO THE NEXT LEVEL OF *EXISTENCE?*
WHY IS YOUR *MINORITY FACTION* SO *OPPOSED* TO FULFILLING ITS *DESTINY?*
WE'RE A PATIENT GROUP, DANIK WE'LL *GLADLY* BRAVE *ANY* TRANSITION ONCE THE HUMAN RACE CAN DO *WITHOUT* US IN THE *MEANTIME*
NOT *JALEETA!* WHY, SHE'S ALWAYS BEEN THE *BRAVEST!*
I WON'T LET *ANYTHING BAD* HAPPEN TO YOU, DARLING. I'LL WATCH OUT FOR *EVERYONE* WHO STAYS BEHIND I *PROMISE*

YOU'RE STILL FUMING
I'M NOT
I'M JUST TRYING TO REMEMBER WHEN WE STOPPED BEING FRIENDS
I'VE BEGGED YOU FOR MONTHS TO STAY BEHIND BUT YOU'VE NEVER ONCE ASKED ME TO COME ALONG WITH YOUR GROUP
I SAW NO POINT I KNEW YOU WOULDN'T
ABSOLUTELY NOT BUT THAT'S NOT THE POINT
THE POINT IS, YOU NEVER ASKED ME
I HAVE TO GO
ME TOO
ME TOO

CAPRICIA? ARE YOU
LET'S GO
WHERE? CAPRICA, ARE YOU SURE YOU'RE ALL RIGHT? WE'VE ALL BEEN THROUGH A LOT
I SAID LET'S GO
THIS SHOULD HAVE WORKED. THEY SHOULD HAVE AWAKENED WHEN WE RAISED THE CITY. THEY DIDN'T--
--BUT THEY WILL.
I'M SICK TO DEATH OF MYSTERY. SOMEWHERE OUT THERE, THERE ARE SOLUTIONS AND RESOLUTIONS.
THE ATLANTEAN RACE WILL AWAKEN. WE WILL BE WITH THEM AGAIN, AND WE WILL FIND A WAY TO MAKE THAT HAPPEN.
WE HAVE TO.

I PROMISED

The CrossGen Universe created by Mark Alessi & Gina M. Villa

Mark WAID
WRITER

Steve EPTING
PENCILER

Rick MAGYAR
INKER

Frank D'ARMATA
COLORIST

Troy PETERI with
Dave LANPHEAR
LETTERERS

Mark Alessi
Publisher & CEO

Gina M. Villa
Chief Operating Officer

Michael A. Beattie
Chief Financial Officer

Tony Panaccio
Vice President
Product Development

Chris Oarr
Director of
Marketing & Sales

James Breitbeil
Director of
Marketing & Distribution

Ian M. Feller
Director of
Corporate Communications

Barbara Kesel
Head Writer

Brandon Peterson
Art Director

Bart Sears
Assistant Art Director

Pam Davies
Production Director

Sylvia Bretz
Production Assistant

Dave Lanphear
Design Director

Troy Peteri
Design Assistant

Michelle Pugliese
Freelance Coordinator

CROSSGEN
comics
6
OCT
$2.95
$4.50 CAN
www.crossgen.com
Mark Waid
Paul Pelletier
Mark Farmer
Dean White

THE STORY THUS FAR...

THEY WERE THE ATLANTEANS,

a peaceful civilization of artists and philosophers who used their phenomenal mental and physical skills to build an island utopia. They had but one responsibility: to guide and shepherd Earth's newborn race of *homo sapiens* towards a grand and glorious destiny. But when a mysterious cataclysm plunged Atlantis and its people beneath the waves, six – and only six – were awakened by a mysterious stranger one thousand centuries later to find their utopia forgotten and in ruins, their brothers and sisters caught in an unshakeable slumber...and the human race gone, having vanished centuries ago under mysterious circumstances.

Capricia in particular has reached her limit in dealing with mysteries and setbacks. She has vowed to start finding answers instead of questions – but at what cost?

The mental and physical abilities of the Atlanteans are identical in nature but not in application. Capricia and her teammates have each channeled their abilities into different skills:

CAPRICIA	TUG	ZEPHYRE	GALVAN & GAMMID	VERITYN
Shapeshifter and empath	Telekinetic strongman	Hypermetabolic intellectual	Manipulators of the electromagnetic spectrum	Seer of all truths

Crux™ Vol. 2, Issue 6. OCTOBER 2001. FIRST PRINTING. Published by CrossGeneration Comics, Inc. Office of publication: 4023 Tampa Road Suite 3400 Oldsmar, Florida 34677. CrossGen®, CrossGen Comics®, CrossGeneration® and CrossGeneration Comics® are registered trademarks of CrossGeneration Comics, Inc. Crux™, the CrossGen sigil™ and all prominent characters are ™ and © 2001 CrossGeneration Comics, Inc. All rights reserved. The entire contents of this book are ™ and © 2001 CrossGeneration Comics, Inc. The stories, incidents, and characters in this publication are fictional. Any similarities to persons living or dead are purely coincidental. With the exception of artwork used for review purposes, none of the contents of this book may be reproduced in any form without the express written consent of CrossGeneration Comics, Inc. PRINTED IN CANADA.

I'M SORRY, VERITYN. I NEVER MEANT
NEVER WOULD HAVE
I'M SORRY

I CAN FEEL THE OTHERS GLARING AT ME. I KNOW WHAT THEY'RE THINKING: LEADERS DON'T LET THEIR PEOPLE DOWN.
BUT THAT'S OKAY. I'M NOT A LEADER. THESE PEOPLE WILL NEVER THINK OF ME AS A LEADER EVER AGAIN...
...NOT AFTER THIS MORNING. NOT AFTER I PUSHED THEM...
...HARDER!
WHEN I SAY 'LOOK TO THE PAST,' VER TYN I MEAN LITERALLY--'LOOK TO THE PAST!'"
WHAT HAPPENED TO THE HUMANS? IF YOU CAN SEE ACROSS TIME, THEN--
WAIT! THERE! THROUGH THE MISTS OF THE AGES--I CAN SEE SOMETHING!
GOOD! WHAT?
IT'S YOU AS A LITTLE GIRL! YOU WERE ALWAYS THIS ANNOYING! CAN I PLEASE REST?
NO, YOU CANNOT KEEP LOOKING
CAPRICIAS GOING TO BE THE DEATH OF THAT POOR KID.
SHE'S GOT THE RIGHT IDEA, THOUGH, TUG HE SHOULD BE ABLE TO FIND SOMETHING OUT
ONCE HE SIFTS THROUGH A THOUSAND CENTURIES OR SO

WE WERE IN MOS...

...MOSCHO? MOSSTO? SOMETHING LIKE THAT...

...BUT, LIKE EVERYTHING ELSE ON EARTH, NOT QUITE THAT." SOME TIME AFTER HUMANITY'S DISAPPEARANCE, THE TERRA COGNITO CORPORATION REMADE EARTH INTO AN AMUSEMENT PARK-SLASH-MUSEUM...

...RECREATING DIFFERENT ERAS OF TERRAN HISTORY SIDE BY SIDE. JUST TODAY, WE'D WALKED THROUGH "FIFTH CENTURY JAPAN" AND "NEPAL, 5040 A.D." WHATEVER "A.D." SIGNIFIES....

...TO GET HERE IN SEARCH OF CLUES. GEROMI, OUR TERRA COGNITO "TOUR GUIDE" AND SELF-PROFESSED "HISTORY GEEK"...AGAIN, WHATEVER THAT MEANS... SAYS MOSCOW...

(THAT'S IT, MOSCOW.)

...MOSCOW IS RUMORED TO HOLD SOME SIGNIFICANCE IN THE LEGENDS OF HUMANITY'S SUDDEN DISAPPEARANCE. GEROMI'S VERY HELPFUL THAT WAY...

...WHEN HE'S GOT HIS MIND ON HIS WORK.

...REALLY LIKE YOUR HAIR TODAY ZEPH YRE ZEPHYRE I MEAN, CAN I CALL YOU ZEPH ? CAUSE, LIKE, IF THAT'S NOT OKAY, I'LL --

IT'S FINE, GEROMI

COOL ZEPH COOL HEY, YOU CAN CALL ME GER IF YOU LIKE

NO, WAIT THAT'S STUPID I MEAN→KZZK KZZZTTKKK←

Ach. HE SOUNDS POSITIVELY BROKEN UP OVER YOU

KNOCK IT OFF!
Uh oh
THIS IS, LIKE THE NINTH TIME YOU THOUGHT IT WAS FUNNY TO MUCK WITH HIS TRANSMISSIONS, MR MICROWAVE!
YOU · YOU · ·
EXCUSE ME! NOT THAT I'D EVER KEEP ANYBODY FROM SHOVING MY BROTHER INTO A WALL · ·
· · BUT YOU HAVE TO ADMIT, THAT KID · ·
· · MAKES THE TWO OF YOU LOOK LIKE A FIVE-YEAR-OLD!
IF YOU ADD YOUR AGES TOGETHER!
WHAT IS IT WITH BOYS?!
WE'RE GROWN MEN
BOYS!
AND WHAT ARE YOU SMILING AT?
IT'S JUST FUNNY! GEROMIS CARRYING A TORCH SO BIG, IT'S A MIRACLE HIS HAT ISN'T ON FIRE!

THAT S
FORGIVEABLE
WHY? DOES IT BOTHER YOU?
OF COURSE NOT! THEN AGAIN, I'M NOT THE ONE WHO CAN T STOP TEASING HER AND I KNOW HOW YOU OPERATE
RIGHT NOW? LIKE SOMEONE WITH NOT MUCH BETTER TO DO. LOOK, IF YOU WANT ME TO PASS HER A NOTE DURING STUDY HALL, FORGET IT
I DON T--
GOOD BECAUSE WE HAVE BOTH SWORN OFF ZEPHYRE CORRECT?
ABSOLUTELY
DAMN RIGHT

CAPRICA IT HURTS
THEN FINISH THE JOB AND IT'LL STOP DON'T BE A CHILD
HE DOESN'T HAVE MUCH CHOICE IN THAT CAPRICA
HIS HEAD ALREADY LIES HEAVIER THAN YOU KNOW LET HIM BE
SAYS YOU? I'D TELL YOU TO MIND YOUR OWN BUSINESS, BUT-- Oh, WAIT--
--YOU WON'T TELL ANYONE WHAT YOUR BUSINESS IS!
WHO ARE YOU? WHY ARE YOU HERE? WHY DID YOU WAKE THE SIX AND ONLY THE SIX OF US UP?
IF YOU'RE READY TO ANSWER THOSE QUESTIONS, DO IT NOW WELL?
THEN KEEP YOUR MOUTH SHUT VERITYN--!
ALL RIGHT! ALL RIGHT! I DON'T KNOW WHY I'M HAVING SUCH A HARD TIME FOCUSING IN, BUT I'M TRYING, OKAY ?

NOTHING YET FROM THE URCHIN .S IT ME, OR DID SOMETHING CRAWL UP CAPRICIA S--
WHAT ON EARTH S THAT?
.T LOOKS LIKE A HYPERCUBE
WHICH TELLS ME NOTHING
GEROMI ?
RUNNING A TERRAIN SEARCH THIS PLACE LOOKS VAGUELY FAMILIAR--
OH, YEAH YEAH! IT'S REALLY COOL GO ON IN!
WILL WE ALL FIT?
YOU'LL BE SURPRISED STAIRS ARE RISING UP TO MEET YOU, RIGHT?
CHECK
COOL

IT'S HUGE! HOW'S THIS --
--THE INSIDE? TESSERACT TECHNOLOGY -- RIGHT GEROM?
WHAT?
A FOURTH DIMENSIONAL CONSTRUCT--
--PROJECTED INTO THREE DIMENSIONAL SPACE
THUS TURNING TIME INTO A
-GEOGRAPHICAL PROPERTY-
AND DE-LIMITING WHAT WE THINK OF AS --
PHYSICAL CONSTRAINTS!
YOU KNOW ABOUT THE
YOU KNOW ABOUT THESE?
OKAY, BUT WHAT IS THIS PLACE?
I'M SORRY IT'S THE ELECTROMAGNETIC MUSEUM
NEW RUSSIA -- THE U.S.S.N. WAS THE BIRTHPLACE OF MANY OF TODAY'S LEADING SCIENTIFIC THEORIES
FOR EXAMPLE SEE THAT PLATFORM? STEP ONTO IT
OKAY
GASP!
GASP!
THAT'S RIGHT IT'S NOT AN ILLUSION AS IMPOSSIBLE AS IT SOUNDS, YOU'RE IN TWO PLACES AT ONCE
A DEMONSTRATION OF THE ANCIENT QUANTUM SUPERSTRING THEORY AS FINALLY CRACKED BY H.T PROPRITEN, PH.Q. IN THE 653RD CENTURY--
WHICH LED TO THIS DISCOVERY IN HADRON FUSION WITHIN THE MILLENNIUM. NOW, WHAT MAKES THIS FAS-- NATING--
ISN'T AS INTERESTING AS THIS. WHAT IS IT?

I RECOGNIZE MOST OF THE CONTINENTS
GEROMI, IS THIS A MAP OF EARTH TODAY?
PRETTY MUCH OF COURSE, THIS EXHIBIT WAS OBVIOUSLY BUILT BY TERRA COGNITO AFTER THE FACT
AFTER WHAT FACT?
I'M SORRY -- AFTER THE VANISHING THIS REPRESENTS EARTH'S APPEARANCE WHEN THE TC CORP CAME TO INVESTIGATE THE HUMAN RACE'S DISAPPEARANCE -- AND FINALLY GOT THROUGH THAT
THE ENERGY FIELD?
EXACTLY. THEY FOUND A BAND OF LETHAL, BLINDING FORCE SURROUNDING THE PLANET, KEEPING ANYONE FROM EVEN APPROACHING IT FOR CENTURIES
NO ONE KNOWS IF IT WAS FALLOUT, OR A SIDE EFFECT OF THE VANISHING, OR WHAT --
-- BUT BEST GUESSES SUGGEST IT WAS PLACED AROUND EARTH AS A WARNING SO NO ONE COULD GET A GOOD LOOK AT IT--
--AS A DEADLY DEFENSE AGAINST PRYING EYES
PRYING
VER TYN

VERITYN!
PLEASE I WANT TO STOP
DAMN IT, VERITYN, DO YOU KNOW HOW MUCH DEPENDS ON THIS? DON'T LET H--
--DON'T LET ME DOWN! PUSH THROUGH! PUSH --
VERITYN?
=Ahuh=
=AHUH=
I CAN'T I CAN'T --
I CAN'T SEEEEEEE!
I CAN'T--

AAAAAAAA!

VERITYN!
VERITYN WAKE UP! VERITYN!
PLEASE WAKE UP! I'M SORRY, VERITYN! I NEVER MEANT
NEVER WOULD HAVE
I'M SORRY
HE'S ONLY A CHILD, CAPRICIA
OR DON'T YOU CARE?

PROUD?
YOU WERE RIGHT ABOUT PUSHING VERITYN TOO FAR! I ADMIT IT! ARE YOU HAPPY NOW?
WILL YOU ADMIT AT LEAST THAT MUCH?
WILL YOU EVER SAY ANYTHING AT ALL?!

THINK THEY WENT -- YEAH, THERE THEY ARE!
CAPRICIA, STOP IT! HE'S NOT THE ONE WHO
CAPRICIA!
WELL?
NO! THE BUILDING!
LOOK OUT!

SOME DETOUR! LEAVE IT TO ME TO INSTINCTIVELY WORRY ABOUT A BUILDING
THAT GUY'LL BE LUCKY TO HAVE A FACE AFTER A HIT LIKE THAT! ARE YOU ALIVE UNDER THERE?
SAY SOMETHING!
I'M FINE LET HER WORK IT OUT
WORK WHAT OUT?
...
THE GIRL
THE ...?
Oh.
Oh, NO.
GET AWAY FROM HIM!
TELL ME WHY! WHY ARE WE HERE? WHY DID YOU ARRANGE ALL THIS?
WHY?

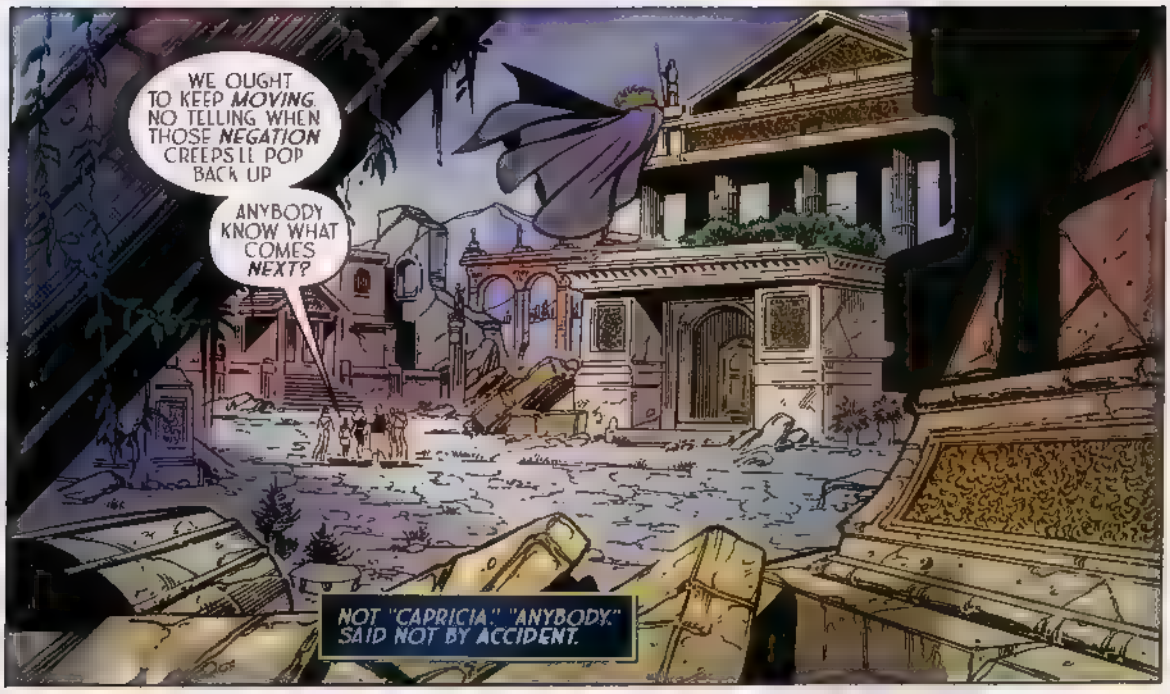
WHY?
FIVE TO ONE SAYS HE TAKES HER
NOT YET
HEY!
I'M OKAY LITTLE SHOT, BUT I'LL LIVE
WE SHOULD TELL CAPRICIA

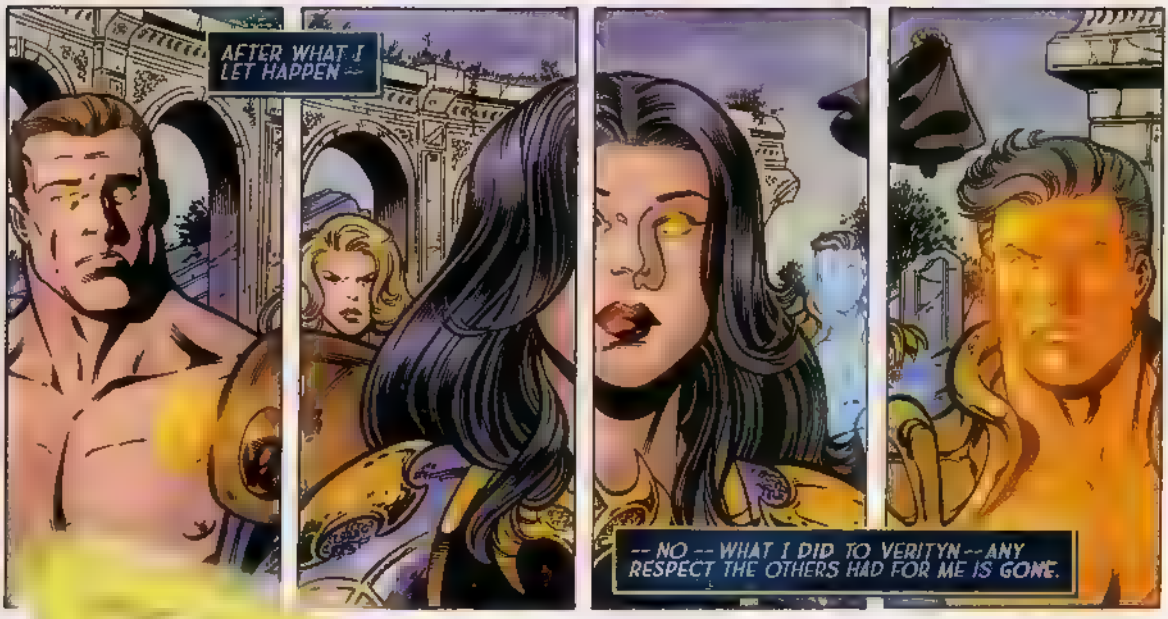
WHY?
WHY?
WHY?
WHY?
WHY WHAT, CAPRICIA?
SAY IT! WHY WHAT?
WHY DID I LIE TO HER?

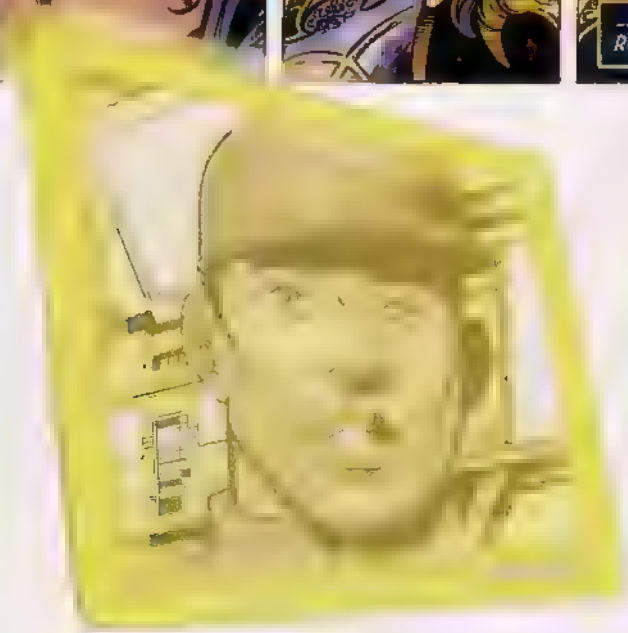
I WON'T LET ANYTHING BAD HAPPEN TO YOU, DARLING
I'LL WATCH OUT FOR EVERYONE WHO STAYS BEHIND I PROMISE

WHY?
SCUSE ME

Oh!
Oh, THANK THE *STARS!* I THOUGHT YOU WERE--
I'M OKAY I NOW HAVE *TWO* HEADACHES, COUNTING *GALVAN*
HEY!
-BUT I'LL LIVE
THERE WAS SOME SORT OF *WEIRD ENERGY BACKLASH* SURROUNDING THAT ENTIRE *ERA*
I GUESS WHATEVER SENT THE HUMANS *AWAY* SOMEHOW SEALED THE EVENT FROM *ANY* FORM OF DETECTION INCLUDING ANYTHING I HAVE TO OFFER
C'MON


WE OUGHT TO KEEP MOVING. NO TELLING WHEN THOSE NEGATION CREEPS'LL POP BACK UP
ANYBODY KNOW WHAT COMES NEXT?
NOT "CAPRICIA." "ANYBODY." SAID NOT BY ACCIDENT.





MY LOAD IS LIGHTER, TRUE, AND ALL I HAD TO TRADE FOR IT...WAS THEIR TRUST.

WITHOUT IT, WE HAVE NOTHING TO HOLD US TOGETHER. I HAVE TO FIND A WAY TO EARN IT BACK.

AND GEROMI'S GOING TO HELP ME...

The CrossGen Universe created by Mark Alessi & Gina M. Villa
Mark WAID WRITER
Paul PELLETIER PENCILER
Mark FARMER INKER
Dean WHITE COLORIST
Dave LANPHEAR with Troy PETERI LETTERERS
Mark Alessi Publisher & CEO
Gina M. Villa Chief Operating Officer
Michael A. Beattie Chief Financial Officer
Tony Panaccio Vice President Product Development
Chris Oarr Director of Marketing & Sales
James Breitbeil Director of Marketing & Distribution
Ian M. Feller Director of Corporate Communications
Barbara Kesel Head Writer
Brandon Peterson Art Director
Bart Sears Assistant Art Director
Pam Davies Production Director
Sylvia Bretz
Dave Lanphear
Troy Peteri
Michelle Pugliese

Pin-up art drawn and inked by Steve Epting with colors by Frank D'Armata.

CROSSGEN comics
7
NOV
$2.95
$4.50 CAN
www.crossgen.com
SEPTEMBER 11th, 2001
CROSSGEN
Mark Waid
Steve Epting
Rick Magyar
Frank D'Armata
FGD

THE STORY THUS FAR...

THEY WERE THE ATLANTEANS,

a peaceful civilization of artists and philosophers who used their phenomenal mental and physical skills to build an island utopia. They had but one responsibility: to guide and shepherd Earth's newborn race of *homo sapiens* towards a grand and glorious destiny. But when a mysterious cataclysm plunged Atlantis and its people beneath the waves, six – and only six – were awakened by a mysterious stranger one thousand centuries later to find their utopia forgotten and in ruins, their brothers and sisters caught in an unshakeable slumber...and the human race gone, having vanished centuries ago under mysterious circumstances.

Leading her group into mystery after mystery with no solutions in sight, Capricia's natural intensity and burden of responsibility backfired in the form of a brief but wild breakdown – crippling the team's ability to trust her. Now, having jeopardized the mutual bonds that are their only hope of survival, she must restore that trust...and quickly....

The mental and physical abilities of the Atlanteans are identical in nature but not in application. Capricia and her teammates have each channeled their abilities into different skills:

CAPRICIA	TUG	ZEPHYRE	GALVAN & GAMMID	VERITYN
Shapeshifter and empath	Telekinetic strongman	Hypermetabolic intellectual	Manipulators of the electromagnetic spectrum	Seer of all truths

Crux™ Vol. Issue 7 NOVEMBER 2001 FIRST PRINTING Published by CrossGeneration Comics, Inc. Office of publication: 4023 Tampa Road Suite 2400 Oldsmar, Florida 34677. CrossGen®, CrossGen Comics®, CrossGeneration® and CrossGeneration Comics® are registered trademarks of CrossGeneration Comics, Inc. Crux™ the CrossGen sigil™, and all prominent characters are ™ and © 2001 CrossGeneration Comics, Inc. All rights reserved. The entire contents of this book are ™ and © 2001 CrossGeneration Comics, Inc. The stories, incidents and characters in this publication are fictional. Any similarities to persons living or dead are purely coincidental. With the exception of artwork used for review purposes, none of the contents of this book may be reproduced in any form without the express written consent of CrossGeneration Comics, Inc. PRINTED IN CANADA.

The_Devastator scan

HHHHUUMANNNSSSS
WHERE?

ANOTHER RANDOM ASSAULT. ANOTHER AMBUSH BY THE BUGS. AND -
WE ARE SICK OF FIGHTING YOU AND YOUR TROOPS. THINGS. MONSTERS. WHATEVER YOU ARE
YOU HUNT US DOWN FOR A REASON! YOU CRAWL THIS EARTH BECAUSE YOU KNOW SOMETHING!
CAPRICIA
QUIET, VERITYN!
WHERE IS THE HUMAN RACE?!
CAPRICIA, THEY'RE ALIENS. WE DON'T KNOW FOR SURE HOW SMART THEY ARE. MAYBE -
VERITYN NOT NOW!
LOOK OUT!
KZZAAKT

YOU IDIOT! THIS IS THE FIRST ONE WE'VE BEEN ABLE TO ACTUALLY CAPTURE! WE LEARN NOTHING THIS WAY!
OH, I FORGET! THE REST OF US ARE SOOO SLOW COMPARED TO YOU? I DON'T THINK
YOU HAVE THAT RIGHT
ARE YOU TWO STILL AT IT? STOP!
GREAT. HERE WE GO AGAIN...THANKS TO ME
ZEPH'S NERVES ARE FRAYED, AND TUG'S ABOUT TO GO OFF ON HIS OWN. AGAIN.
I SAW HIM MOVING! I SAVED YOUR LIFE! YOU'RE WELCOME!
YOU OVERREACTED, GALVAN. HE WAS WOUNDED. HE WASN'T MOVING FAST ENOUGH TO BE A THREAT
OUR "MYSTERY OBSERVER" LEFT JUST BEFORE THE BUGS STRUCK...AND WHO CARES IF HE COMES BACK?
IT'S ALL FALLING APART, GEROMI. I PUSHED THEM TOO HARD. I LOST THEIR RESPECT. NOW THEY'RE TIRED OF ME AND THEY'RE TIRED OF ONE ANOTHER
THEY'RE JUST TIRED, PERIOD, CAPRICIA. WHAT DO YOU EXPECT? YOU GUYS ARE WANDERING WITHOUT THE FIRST CLUE WHERE YOU'RE GOING
HELL, I CAN MAP SIX CONTINENTS, BUT EVEN I CAN'T GIVE YOU A DIRECTION
GEROMI IS A NON-NATIVE EARTHLING WHO'S TRYING SINCE HIS ARRIVAL TO UNRAVEL THE MYSTERY OF HUMANITY'S DISAPPEARANCE -- PARTLY OUT OF INTELLECTUAL CURIOSITY, PARTLY OUT OF A CRUSH ON ZEPHYRE.
TUG AND ZEPH ASSEMBLED AND TWEAKED A FLOATING COMMSCREEN SO HE COULD "ACCOMPANY" US. HE'S AN EXCELLENT TOUR GUIDE BEING THAT HE'S QUITE TIM
HISTORIAN
MM

WITH A CONCENTRATION I COULD NEVER ATTEMPT IN BATTLE, I GET TO WORK.
AROUND THE CORNER, THE OTHERS CONTINUE TO SQUABBLE AND BICKER. THREATS ARE EXCHANGED.
THESE PEOPLE AREN'T FRIENDS. MANY OF THEM DIDN'T EVEN KNOW ONE ANOTHER BACK IN ATLANTIS. ALL THAT TIES THEM TOGETHER ARE A COMMON HERITAGE AND, FOR THE MOST PART...
...COMMON BELIEFS.
YOU'RE JOKING. THIS ISN'T THE TIME OR PLACE. AND WHERE DID YOU GET--
TWO. I MADE IT AND ONE YOU KNOW THE RULES.
IF ONE CALLS THE CEREMONY
ALL OTHERS MUST PARTICIPATE
LET'S GET PREPARED
CEREMONY?

YOU KNOW HOW I'VE SAID ALL ALONG WE WERE PHILOSOPHERS AND POETS MORE THAN WARRIORS? KEEP *WATCHING*.
THE *JATAKA TOTEM*, WHEN PRESENTED, BEGINS AN ATLANTEAN CEREMONY OF *BONDING*. PARTICIPANTS TAKE TURNS EXERCISING THEIR *IMAGINATION* BY CREATING *HISTORY*.
CRE--? BUT HISTORY IS THE ASSEMBLY OF *FACTS*.
IS IT? WHAT KILLED THE *DINOSAURS*? VOLCANIC *ERUPTIONS* OR A *METEOR* STRIKE? WHICH THEORY IS *CORRECT*?
WE DON'T *KNOW* AT THIS POINT, ONE'S AS GOOD AS THE *OTHER*, I GUESS.
EXACTLY.
GEROMI, THE *ATLANTEAN* SAGA GOES BACK *100 MILLION YEARS*, ALMOST *NONE* OF THEM *DOCUMENTED*.
'ANCIENT HISTORY IS WHATEVER OUR IMAGINATION *TELLS* US IT IS.
IT'S WHATEVER STORY WE CARE TO *CREATE*. SO, USING THE *JATAKA* TO DESIGNATE *TURNS*, WE *MAKE HISTORY*, IF YOU WILL. TOGETHER, WE CREATE A *STORY*.
IT SOUNDS LIKE A *GAME*, BUT IT'S *NOT*. AS THE STORY *GROWS*, WE FIND IT TENDS TO TAKE ON A LIFE OF ITS *OWN*.
SOMETIMES, ITS *CONCLUSION* SHEDS LIGHT ON THE OBSTACLES *BEFORE* US.
OTHER TIMES, ITS *TELLING* REVEALS MUCH ABOUT THE *TELLER*.
REGARDLESS

IT'S PROBABLY OUR *LAST HOPE*
I WAS THINKING ABOUT THE *DINOSAURS* EARLIER. SO THAT'S WHERE THIS *STARTS*.
WITH A *METEOR* THE SIZE OF A SMALL *MOON*
STRIKING THE OCEAN WITH *UNIMAGINABLE FORCE* SPEWING VAST GOUTS OF *STEAM* AND EXTRATERRESTRIAL *DUST* INTO THE *SKIES*
AND ENSHROUDING THE EARTH IN *TOTAL DARKNESS*
IN A SPLIT SECOND, A *VIOLENT ACTION* CHANGED *EVERYTHING*

NO ONE KNOWS HOW LONG IT TOOK FOR THE SUN TO REAPPEAR. BUT IT'S NOT AS IF ITS LIGHT BROUGHT *HOPE*
HOPE IS A PROMISE OF THE *FUTURE*
AND THE FUTURE WAS YET TO BE *BUILT*
GAMMID ?
WELL
SURVIVAL DIDN'T GET ANY *EASIER* WITH THE PASSAGE OF *TIME*
THOUGH THE *DINOSAURS* WERE DEAD, *NEW* SPECIES HAD ARISEN -- NEW *PREDATORS*
PEOPLE, *DIVIDED* AND *SCATTERED*, SOUGHT ONE ANOTHER FOR COMFORT AND SAFETY, CONCERNED ONLY WITH *DEFENDING* THEMSELVES FROM --
HEY! WAIT YOUR *TURN!*
IF I *DO*, I'LL FALL *ASLEEP*. BE *REALISTIC*. WHEN FOOD AND SHELTER ARE *SCARCE* --

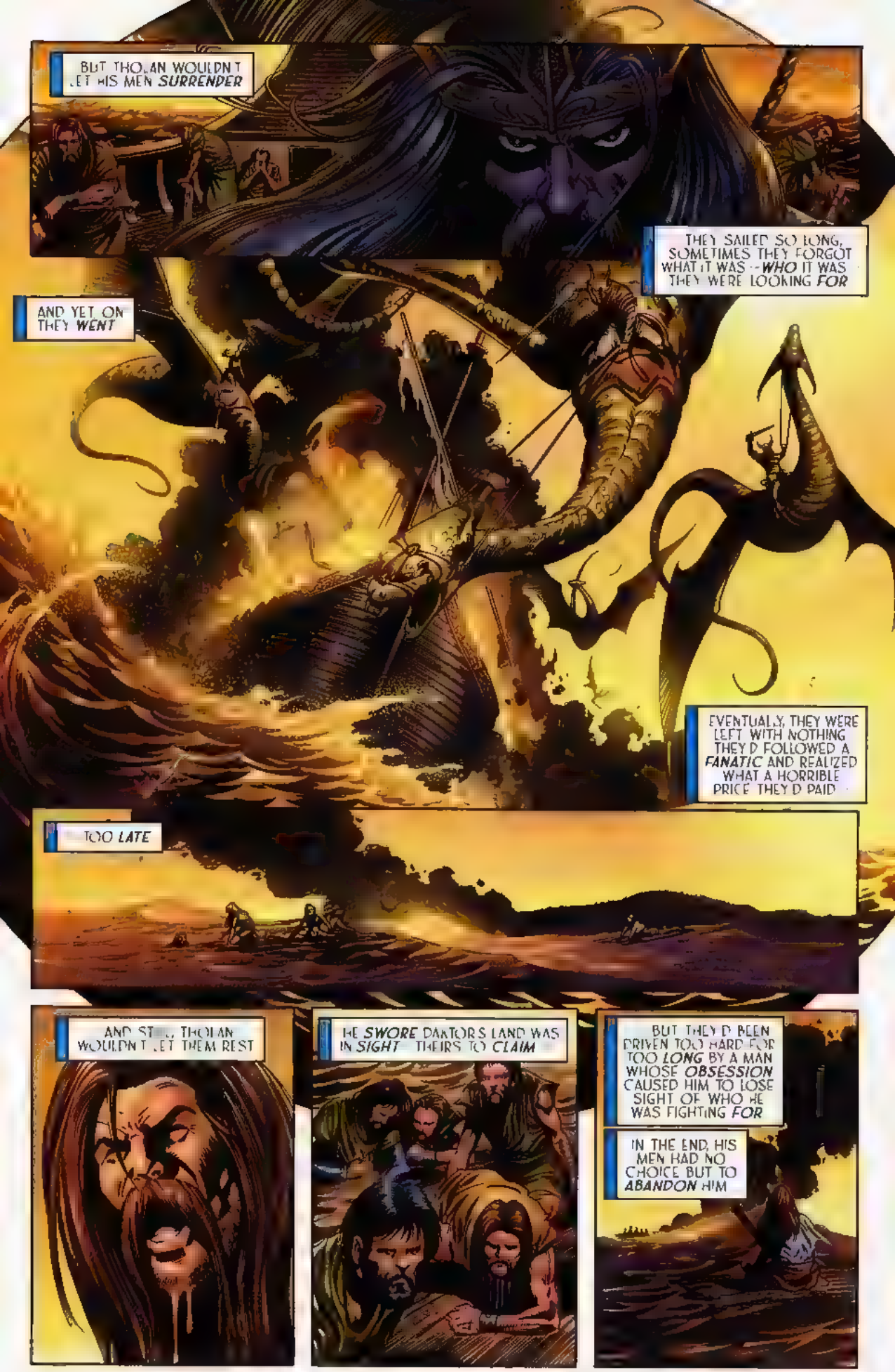
IT ALWAYS COMES DOWN TO SURVIVAL OF THE FITTEST AND THAT'S ABOUT OFFENSE, NOT DEFENSE
THEY FOUGHT THESE PEOPLE FOUGHT THEIR ONLY GOAL WAS TO PROVIDE THEIR LOVED ONES WITH FOOD AND SHELTER
SO IF WAR WAS ALL THEY KNEW, HOW DID THEY EVER CREATE A LIVEABLE SOCIETY, YOU MORON?
MAYBE THEY HELD HANDS AND SANG A SONG! HOW THE HELL SHOULD I KNOW?
WHO KNOWS WHAT GLUES ANY SOCIETY TOGETHER?
SO, WHAT? CENTURIES WENT BY AND THEY SURVIVED BECAUSE ?
BECAUSE ONE MAN MOVED QUICKLY- AND WAS SMART ENOUGH TO SEARCH FOR AN ANSWER.
"HIS NAME...
HIS NAME WAS THOLAN A LEADER WHO USED REASON RATHER THAN RAGE AS HIS EMOTIONAL ANCHOR
WHEN VIOLENCE CLAIMED HIS WIFE'

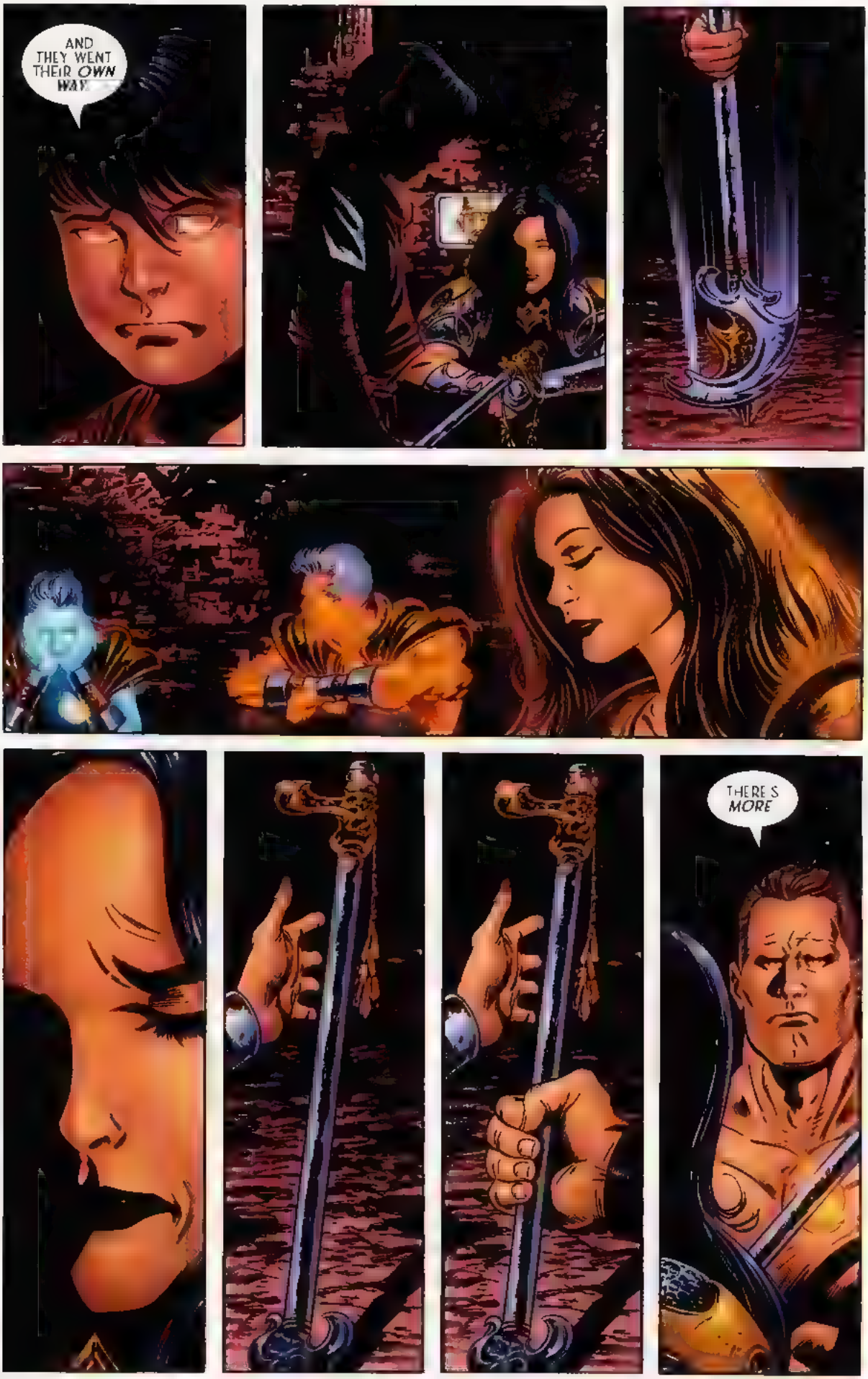
SICK AND TIRED OF LOSS, HE TRIED TO *BUILD* SOMETHING. HE WORKED TO BRING *UNITY* TO WARRING TRIBES. WARRING *NATIONS*
AND *FAILED*
ALL HE REALLY HAD TO *OFFER* WAS A *DREAM*. AND IN THE FACE OF *REALITY*, THAT WAS LESS THAN *USELESS*
THE PROBLEM *WAS*, A GOAL AS EPHEMERAL AS *PEACE* OR *HARMONY* WASN'T *MOTIVE* ENOUGH. NOT WITH THE VERY *REAL* FEAR AND HARDSHIP HIS PEOPLE STILL FACED.
AND...
AND THAT'S WHEN THOLAN *SAW* SOMETHING.
A SOLDIER WEARING A BADGE *IDENTICAL* TO THE ONE ON THE DAGGER THAT KILLED THOLAN'S *WIFE*.

WITHOUT *KNOWING* IT, HAD THERE BEEN SOMEONE SPECIFIC THOLAN HAD BEEN WARRING *AGAINST* ALL THIS TIME?
THOLAN'S *SCRYER* ANSWERED THE QUESTION
..WITH A VISION OF *TERROR*
SUDDENLY, THOLAN SAW THAT HIS PEOPLE FACED A *COMMON ENEMY*, ONE THEY COULD UNITE *AGAINST*--
--PARTICULARLY IN LIGHT OF WHAT HE *HAD* THAT WAS THEIRS TO *TAKE*
HIS NAME WAS *DAKTOR* AND HE HAD CLAIMED FOR HIS *OWN* THE *CATASTROPHIC STAR* THAT HAD ONCE *FALLEN* ON THE EARTH, NOW A VAST *ISLAND* IN THE *SEA*
HE LIVED THERE *ALONE*, WITH ONLY HIS PRINCESS AT HIS SIDE BECAUSE, SAID THE SCRYER, LEGEND CLAIMED THAT THE *STAR-LAND* GRANTED DAKTOR AN UNDREAMED-OF LEVEL OF *PROTECTIVE POWER* --POWER DAKTOR WASN'T ANXIOUS TO *SHARE*

THOLAN VOWED TO LEAD HIS PEOPLE TO THAT MYSTERIOUS POWER -- AND IN DOING SO, AVENGE HIS OWN WIFE'S DEATH
GUIDED BY HIS VISION, THEY SET OUT IN SEARCH OF THEIR DESTINY

AT FIRST, THOLAN'S SOLDIERS WERE GALVANIZED BY HIS SHEER DETERMINATION
HE LET NOTHING STAND BETWEEN THEM AND THE POSSIBILITY OF MAGICAL STRENGTH
TO THOLAN, EVERY HARDSHIP ALONG THE WAY WAS PROOF THAT THEY WERE ON THE RIGHT PATH
BUT IF THEY WERE, THEN WHY WAS THERE TOLL AFTER TOLL? EVERYTHING THAT CAME AT THEM, EVERY NEW OBSTACLE IN THEIR WAY, WAS HARDER TO OVERCOME THAN THE LAST AND COST LIVES
THERE WEREN'T EVEN ANY VICTORIES
JUST SURVIVAL


BUT THOLIAN WOULDN'T LET HIS MEN *SURRENDER*
THEY SAILED SO LONG, SOMETIMES THEY FORGOT WHAT IT WAS --*WHO* IT WAS THEY WERE LOOKING *FOR*
AND YET ON THEY *WENT*
EVENTUALLY, THEY WERE LEFT WITH NOTHING THEY'D FOLLOWED A *FANATIC* AND REALIZED WHAT A HORRIBLE PRICE THEY'D PAID
TOO *LATE*
AND STILL, THOLIAN WOULDN'T LET THEM REST
HE *SWORE* DAKTOR'S LAND WAS IN *SIGHT* -- THEIRS TO *CLAIM*
BUT THEY'D BEEN DRIVEN TOO HARD FOR TOO *LONG* BY A MAN WHOSE *OBSESSION* CAUSED HIM TO LOSE SIGHT OF WHO HE WAS FIGHTING *FOR*
IN THE END, HIS MEN HAD NO CHOICE BUT TO *ABANDON* HIM


AND THEY WENT THEIR OWN WAY.
THERE'S MORE

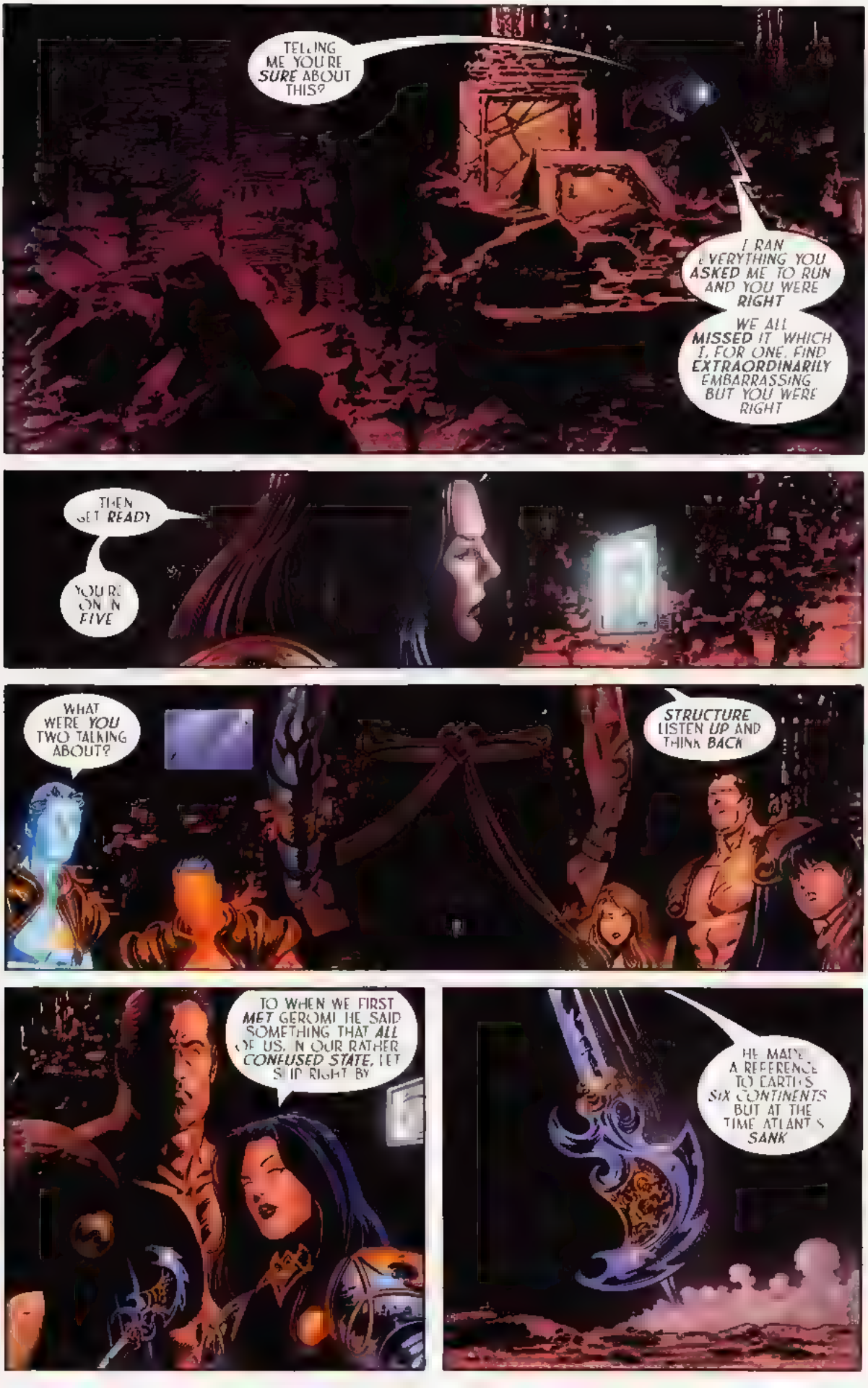
BATTERED BY THE SEA WEAKENED TO THE BRINK OF *DEATH*, THOLAN NEVERTHELESS SUBSISTED ON SHEER *DETERMINATION*
HE HAD *FOUND* DAKTOR'S ISLAND AND HE CRAWLED *ASHORE*
MORE READY THAN *EVER* TO DO *BATTLE*
ULTIMATELY WHATEVER MAGIC MIGHT HAVE *SHIELDED* DAKTOR FROM THOLAN'S UNCOMPROMISING *QUEST* WELL
THAT'S THE *THING* ABOUT OBSESSION
IF IT'S STRONG ENOUGH IT CUTS THROUGH *ANYTHING*

STILL IN BATTLE RAGE THOLAN GRABBED DAKTOR'S PRINCESS BY THE THROAT -
AND HOLDING HER UP BEFORE HIS ENEMY, THREATENED TO KILL HER *TOO* --
-- UNLESS DAKTOR USED HIS DYING BREATH TO EXPLAIN AND *SURRENDER* THE MAGIC CONFERRED BY THE VERY GROUND BENEATH THEIR *FEET*
AND DAKTOR
DAKTOR *LAUGHED*
THAT MAGIC WAS A *MYTH*, HE CONFESSED. ONE PUT FORTH BY DAKTOR *HIMSELF* TO HELP SPIN A LEGEND OF *SUPREMACY* THERE WAS NO POWER TO THE *LAND*
THOLAN HAD COME ALL THIS WAY FOR *NOTHING*. HE HAD LIED TO HIS *MEN* AND TO *HIMSELF*. ALL *ALONG*, HE'D BEEN WARNED THAT HIS QUEST WAS *AIMLESS*
AND *FUTILE*

THE RAIN POURED ON THOLAN FOR DAYS BEFORE IT EVEN *OCCURRED* TO HIM TO BUILD A SHELTER FROM THE *STORM*
AND THAT'S WHEN HE *REALIZED* SOMETHING
DAKTOR WAS WRONG THERE *WAS* POWER TO THE LAND
THOLAN HAD *FAILED* HIS FOLLOWERS BY LETTING HIS OWN PERSONAL *DEMONS* CHART THEIR COURSE BUT IN THE END, HE HAD *LEARNED* SOMETHING

IF HE TRULY WANTED TO *LEAD*
IF HE WANTED HIS PEOPLE TO *SURVIVE* TO *THRIVE* IN THE HOSTILE WORLD AROUND THEM
HE HAD TO PROVIDE SOMETHING *REAL* FOR THEM
NOT A *'MAGIC'* NOT SOME VAGUE AND EPHEMERAL *BETTER FUTURE* THAT MIGHT SOMEHOW *UNIFY* MEN
SOMETHING *SOLID*
AND WORTH WORKING *TOWARDS*

HE HAD TO
VE THEIR LIVES
STRUCTURE
THERE'S
YOUR STORY,
APRICIA NOW
WHAT?
APR
WHERE
SHE MUST
HAVE SLIPPED
OFF INTO THE
SHADOWS
ALONE?
NO.
SHE
TOOK GEROMI
WITH HER


TELLING ME YOU'RE *SURE* ABOUT THIS?
I RAN EVERYTHING YOU *ASKED* ME TO RUN AND YOU WERE *RIGHT*
WE ALL *MISSED* IT WHICH I, FOR ONE, FIND *EXTRAORDINARILY* EMBARRASSING BUT YOU WERE RIGHT
THEN GET *READY*
YOU'RE ON IN *FIVE*
WHAT WERE *YOU* TWO TALKING ABOUT?
STRUCTURE LISTEN *UP* AND THINK *BACK*
TO WHEN WE FIRST *MET* GEROMI HE SAID SOMETHING THAT *ALL* OF US, IN OUR RATHER *CONFUSED STATE*, LET SLIP RIGHT BY
HE MADE A REFERENCE TO EARTH'S *SIX CONTINENTS* BUT AT THE TIME ATLANTIS *SANK*

THERE WERE SEVEN
GEROMI DID SOME SERIOUS DIGGING THROUGH ANCIENT RECORDS AND DATABANKS--
-- AND FOUND EVIDENCE OF A LAND HUMANS CALLED "AUSTRALIA" - A CONTINENT THAT SOMEHOW, SOME WAY--
-- WENT MISSING FOR MILLENNIA
"MISSING"? HOW CAN AN ENTIRE CONTINENT GO MISSING?
A BETTER QUESTION MIGHT BE WHO MADE IT VANISH -- OR WHY
YOU WANTED A GOAL? SOMETHING SOLID TO REACH FOR? GEROMI, SHOW THEM WHAT SATELLITE SURVEILLANCE SHOWED US.
ONCE WE KNEW TO LOOK? MY PLEASURE
COME ON
LET'S GO INTRODUCE OURSELVES TO THE HUMAN RACE

The CrossGen Universe created by Mark Alessi & Gina M. Villa

Mark WAID
WRITER

Steve EPTING
PENCILER

Rick MAGYAR
INKER

Frank D'ARMATA
COLORIST

Dave LANPHEAR with Troy PETERI
LETTERERS

Mark Alessi
Publisher & CEO

Gina M. Villa
Chief Operating Officer

Michael A. Beattie
Chief Financial Officer

Tony Panaccio
Vice President
Product Development

Chris Oarr
Director of
Marketing & Sales

James Breitbeil
Director of
Marketing & Distribution

Ian M. Feller
Director of
Corporate Communications

Barbara Kesel
Head Writer

Brandon Peterson
Art Director

Bart Sears
Assistant Art Director

Pam Davies
Production Director

Sylvia Bretz
Production Assistant

Dave Lanphear
Design Director

Troy Peteri
Design Assistant

Michelle Pugliese
Freelance Coordinator

CROSSGEN COMICS
8
DEC
$2.95
$4.50 CAN
www.crossgen.com
CROSSOVER
Mark Waid • Steve Epting • Rick Magyar • Frank D'Armata

THE STORY THUS FAR...

THEY WERE THE ATLANTEANS,

a peaceful civilization of artists and philosophers who used their phenomenal mental and physical skills to build an island utopia. They had but one responsibility: to guide and shepherd Earth's newborn race of *homo sapiens* towards a grand and glorious destiny. But when a mysterious cataclysm plunged Atlantis and its people beneath the waves, six – and only six – were awakened by a mysterious stranger one thousand centuries later to find their utopia forgotten and in ruins, their brothers and sisters caught in an unshakeable slumber...and the human race gone, having vanished centuries ago under mysterious circumstances.

Now, following an extensive and fruitless search by the awakened Atlanteans for any clue as to humanity's whereabouts, their sole local contact – an historian and engineer named Geremi – has found evidence of life in a land of legend long forgotten by mortal man. Geremi calls it "Australia."

The mental and physical abilities of the Atlanteans are identical in nature but not in application. Capricia and her teammates have each channeled their abilities into different skills:

CAPRICIA	TUG	ZEPHYRE	GALVAN & GAMMID	VERITYN
Shapeshifter and empath	Telekinetic strongman	Hypermetabolic intellectual	Manipulators of the electromagnetic spectrum	Seer of all truths

Crux™ Vol. 1, Issue 8. DECEMBER 2001. FIRST PRINTING. Published by CrossGeneration Comics, Inc. Office of publication: 4023 Tampa Road, Suite 2400, Oldsmar, Florida 34677. CrossGen®, CrossGen Comics®, CrossGeneration®, and CrossGeneration Comics® are registered trademarks of CrossGeneration Comics, Inc. Crux™, the CrossGen sigil™, and all prominent characters are ™ and © 2001 CrossGeneration Comics, Inc. All rights reserved. The entire contents of this book are ™ and © 2001 CrossGeneration Comics, Inc. The stories, incidents, and characters in this publication are fictional. Any similarities to persons living or dead are purely coincidental. With the exception of artwork used for review purposes, none of the contents of this book may be reproduced in any form without the express written consent of CrossGeneration Comics, Inc. PRINTED IN CANADA.

The Devastator scar

WE HAVEN'T HAD GOOD NEWS FOR ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND YEARS.
WE'RE A LITTLE OVERDUE.
GEROM! SAYS THERE ARE HUMANS ON A LANDMASS HE CALLS AUSTRALIA, AND WE CAN'T GET THERE FAST ENOUGH.
DOESN'T MATTER THAT IT'S LIKE TRAVELING TO VISIT RELATIVES YOU'VE NEVER MET. AT LEAST WE'RE FINALLY GOING SOMEWHERE.
THIS IS --
SIMPLY REMARKABLE! IMAGINE A LOST CIVILIZATION!
LIKE ATLANTIS
LIKE ATL
OKAY SO IT'S NOT UNIQUE! WHO CARES?
YOU HAVE A MILLION QUESTIONS FOR THEM -- WHICH ONE DO YOU ASK FIRST?
WHAT'S HAPPENING?
WHY IS THAT GIRL VIBRATING IN PLACE?
OH. WAIT THAT'S WHAT THEY'LL ASK US DO YOU MIND?
MR. CASUAL LIKE HE'S NOT EXCITED
THE LAST TIME WE SAW THEM CAPRICIA, THEY'D JUST INVENTED THE PLOW WHAT DO YOU THINK THEY'VE MADE OF THEMSELVES SINCE?
WITHOUT OUR HELP ?
LET IT GO, PA. YES, WE LOST OUR CHANCE TO GUIDE THEM, BUT THAT'S IN THE PAST BOY, IS IT IN THE PAST
ENJOY THE MOMENT NO MORE UNCERTAINTIES, NO MORE MYSTERIES FINALLY
WAS JUST TEASING! CAN'T ANYONE TAKE A JOKE?
HAVE YOU CONSIDERED IT MIGHT BE IN THE DELIVERY?
HAVE YOU CONSIDERED THAT WE DON'T NEED YOU AFTER THIS?
GALVAN! DON'T LISTEN TO HIM, GEROM!
WHY START NOW? BESIDES, ACCORDING TO MY TRACKING, HE'LL SOON HAVE A WHOLE NEW AUDIENCE TO HARASS
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, I GIVE YOU

AUSTRALIA?

SMALLER
I DON'T GET IT! SATELLITE SURVEILLANCE SHOWED AN ENTIRE CONTINENT -!
AND?
DON'T BE A BRAT, VERITYN I'M SURE THIS ISN'T HIS FAULT
FAULT? WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? WHY AREN'T WE MOVING?
GOOD QUESTION LOOK BEHIND US
Uh oh? WHAT'S UH OH? VERITYN WHAT DO YOU SEE?
WELL YOU KNOW THOSE DIMENSIONAL PORTALS THE NEGATION BUGS POP THROUGH?
THAT'S ONE BUT THAT'S NOT THE PROBLEM
NOT THE ? LOOK AT THE SIZE OF THAT THING!
THAT'S NOT THE PROBLEM EITHER
THEN WHAT? ALL THOSE EYES? ARE THOSE
THEY ARE! THEY'RE NEGATION BUGS!

I WISH
THAT'S THE PROBLEM

RED HOW SAFE IS THIS BUBBLE ?

TOO SAFE

TOO ?

CLEARLY THESE BEINGS ARE AKIN TO THOSE WE'VE FOUGHT PREVIOUSLY

BUT WE CAN LEARN NOTHING MORE FROM WITHIN THIS SPHERE'S CONFINES

WAIT! CONFINES ? HOW ABOUT ITS PROTEC

—TIONNNNNN?

TUG!

ZEPH DIDN'T REALLY NEED TO CUE HIM.

AS THE ONE WITH THE SHARPEST TK ABILITIES, HE CATCHES US ALMOST WITHOUT THINKING.

AND SPEAKING OF "WITHOUT THINKING"...

GAVAN! GAMMID!

TUG PULL THEM BACK!

LIKE THIS ISN'T HARD ENOUGH ?

IT'S NOT LIKE THERE ANY PLACE TO HIDE, CAPRICA! ALL WE CAN DO IS FIGHT BACK!
WE SIMPLY HAVE TO HOPE THAT WE'RE STRONG ENOUGH TO

A AND GALVAN
T TELL ME
THEY'RE NOT
TELL ME
THEY JUST
FELL
I DON'T THINK
SO, ZEPHYRE
THEY HAD
WE WOULD
HAVE SEEN
THEM LAND

YESTERDAY, SILENT RED WAS NOWHERE TO BE SEEN. THAT HE COMES AND GOES AS HE PLEASES DOESN'T BOTHER ME.
IT'S HOW HIS PRESENCE GENERALLY MAKES NO DIFFERENCE. WORSE, RIGHT NOW, HE'S SETTING A NEW RECORD FOR PASSIVITY.
I'D LABEL HIS EXPRESSION "CONFUSED" IF I THOUGHT HE WERE CAPABLE OF EMOTIONS.
LIKE GRIEF. THE TWINS...
WE ARE SO BADLY OUTNUMBERED.
IF I LURE SOME OF THESE CREATURES AWAY FROM TUG AND THE OTHERS, MAYBE IT'LL EVEN THE ODDS...
...AND KEEP US FROM DYING FOR ANOTHER FEW MINUTES.

SO YOU REALLY DON'T UNDERSTAND? TLG GIVE ME
THIS IS IMPORTANT! GIVE ME YOUR
SO
NNGH!
EXCUSE ME WHILE I INVOKE OUR TEAM BATTLE CRY
NOT NOW, VERITYN!
SO IS THIS, OKAY? I CANNOT CONCENTRATE ON THE PLATFORM AND TH BEASTS AND YOUR PENETRATING LITTLE VOICE ALL AT
GIVE ME YOUR BIG, THICK SKULL!
HEY!
SO? SEE THAT?
?
THEN THEN THE TWINS
NEED COMPANY

AAAAAAH!
AAAH!
NNNNHH
YOU
YOU OKAY ?
NO
EVERYTHING'S SO STILL
CAN'T FEEL ULTRAVIOLET IN THE AIR CAN'T HEAR RADIO WAVES
SAME WITH ME BLIND AND DEAF SOMETHING'S INTERFERING WITH THE ELECTROMAGNETIC SPECTRUM HERE
WHEREVER HERE IS
DOESN'T MEAN THIS CAGE SHOULD HOLD US I'VE GOT A PLAN BUT IT ONLY WORKS IF THESE GUYS STOP SHOOTING AND
AAAAAAAH!
AAAAAAH!!

OO MANY
AN'T SWAT THEM
ALL BEFORE
NNNGHH--!
TUG!
CAPRICIA,
HURT!
DAMN IT! NOW THEY'RE JUST FALLING TARGETS! I CAN'T CATCH THEM, CAN'T PROTECT THEM--
CAPRICIA!
LEFT! STEER LEFT!
M TRYING
--BUT--IMAGINE THAT!--- THE STRANGER NOT ONLY CAN SAVE THEM--
--BUT PLAYING COMPLETELY AGAINST TYPE--
--HE DOES!
MAYBE WE DON'T DIE TODAY. MAYBE NOW WE CAN FIGHT BACK AND--

CH-CHOOOM
ALWAYS A PARTY OF ONE, THAT MAN.
A LITTLE WARNING NEXT TIME
THERE THAT WILL FOOL THEM THEY'LL BELIEVE US DEAD AT LEAST FOR NOW
WHERE
I'VE BEEN TRYING TO TELL YOU THIS AUSTRALIA PLACE IS STILL HERE IT'S JUST CLOAKED SOMEHOW!
THEN THE TWINS -
NO DOUBT HERE AS WELL COME
LET US FIND THEM BEFORE THE SOLDIERS ABOVE REALIZE THEY'VE BEEN DECEIVED
AND DECIDE TO INVESTIGATE

SO THAT'S WHERE THE SMALLNESS OF THE CAGE WORKS TO OUR ADVANTAGE IF I POSITION MYSELF RIGHT I CAN BLOCK WHILE YOU DO YOUR PART
READY?
NO
NO?
I DON'T LIKE THE PLAN
IT'S ALWAYS SOMETHING WITH YOU, YOU INGRATE! WHAT'S SO WRONG WITH IT?
JUST ONE THING
YOU MADE THE WRONG BROTHER THE TARGET
AAAUGH NO!
DON'T ARGUE! GO!
AAAGGH!!
GO!

GNNNNN--
GHAAAAH!
COME ON
COME ON
AAAAAAH!
GOT IT! NOW SWAP OUT!
FORGET IT
YOU IDIOT!
DO IT MY WAY AND
AND WE BOTH DIE EEEEAH!
RUN! I'LL COVER YOU AAAGH!
I KNOW YOU ALWAYS DO
GO! FIND THE OTHERS! HURRY!

-126!
-126?
NICE SAVE. I GET THE TK GRAB - BUT HOW'D YOU MAKE THOSE OTHER RIFLES DISAPPEAR?
I DIDN'T
THEN--
I'M SURE I DON'T KNOW. ASK THEM, GEROM. WE CAN TRANSLATE TELEPATHICALLY, SO IF YOU NEED US TO INTERPRET
HUH? OH NO, IT'S AUTO WITH THE COMMLINK. I WAS JUST FIGURING OUT WHY THE LIGHT HERE IS SO WEIRD
FOR CENTURIES, TERRA COGNITO'S BEEN FUELED BY A PULSAR MAGNET SO STRONG, THEY SAY IT ACTUALLY BENDS THE ELECTROMAGNETIC SPECTRUM IN ITS VICINITY
HELL, I HAVE TO PUMP EXTRA ENERGY INTO OUR SIGNAL JUST TO KEEP IT OPEN
I NEVER EARNED ENOUGH CLEARANCE TO KNOW WHERE THE MAGNET WAS, BUT CLEARLY, THIS IS THE PLACE
THEN THAT'S THAT'S WHY GALVAN AND I CAN'T MANIFEST ANY
PROBABLY. WHERE IS GALVAN? AND WHO ARE THESE PEOPLE?

WELL, THEY'RE STILL AUSTRALIANS WHY THE GREENISH SCARS, I HAVEN'T A CLUE AND AS FOR GALVAN
LET'S HOPE HE DIDN'T RUN ACROSS THEM TUG!
BULLETS GOOD THESE I CAN PUSH AWAY
DO WE NEED WEAPONS OF OUR OWN?
?
WELL, IF SO
ONE OF THE ONES THAT VANISHED A MOMENT AGO JUST REAPPEARED
HOLD YOUR FIRE!
MORE !
AND APPARENTLY THAT'S NOT UNCOMMON IN THESE PARTS LET'S GO!
LIKE EVERYONE ELSE IN SIGHT OUTSIDE OF THE GUNMAN, THE WOMAN SINKS TO THE GROUND IN DESPAIR.
THE BYSTANDERS, TO A ONE, COWER LIKE AUTISTIC CHILDREN.
WHY?

KEEP THEM FROM THE MACHINE!
KEEP THEM FROM THE MACHINE!
WE DON'T CARE ABOUT ANY MACHINE! JUST DROP YOUR WEAPONS!
I SAID, DROP YOUR WEAPONS!
MEN, ON MY SIGNAL
WILL YOU CALM DOWN? WE MEAN YOU NO HARM!
YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND! YOUR VERY PRESENCE CAN
Oh, NO NO
NO! NOT AGAIN!
NOT AGAIN
NO!
FIR
GREAT THE PEOPLE VANISH TOO
AND THE BUILDINGS
CHANGE SHAPE ?

FOUND M!
HE MIGHT HAVE BEEN BETTER OFF LOST!
GEROM! DO YOUR HOMEWORK! WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?
I'M IN THE DATANET SOMETHING ABOUT THE MAGNET FUELING A TACHYON COLLIDER WHICH COULD MEAN
OH, NO WAY, NO WAY!
LEAVE THIS PLACE! YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND!
WE'RE SO CLOSE! YOU MUST LEAVE BEFORE YOU RUIN IT!
GEROM THIS MAGNET YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT IS THAT IT?
NO! I DON'T KNOW WHAT THAT IS

BUT IT DOESN'T SEEM TO MATTER!
MISTRESS!
NO!
NOOO
ALMOST WE WERE ALMOST THERE THIS TIME
ALMOST WHERE? WITH WHAT? WILL SOMEBODY PLEASE TELL US ANYTHING?
YOU HEARD HER! WHAT IS THIS ALL ABOUT?

MISTRESS NO! YOU MIGHT
IT'S ALL RIGHT IT DOESN'T MATTER NOTHING EVER MATTERS, DOES IT?
YOU SHOULDN'T BE HERE IT'S TOO MASSIVE A
TOO DANGEROUS A CHANGE YOU ARE UNKNOWN FACTORS.
SO YOU SHOOT AT US?
THAT'S THE ONLY TIME WE GET DANGEROUS WE'VE COME TO MEET YOU -HELP YOU. YOU ARE HUMANS. ?
ABSOLUTELY THE LAST REMAINING NATIVES OF THE PLANET EARTH, IN FACT
MILLENNIA AGO, THE HUMAN RACE GROUPED US TOGETHER AND LEFT US BEHIND
BEHIND GOING WHERE?
TO A HIGHER PLANE OF EXISTENCE WE WERE THE ONES THEY DEEMED UNFIT TO MAKE THE
TRANSITION

The CrossGen Universe created by Mark Alessi & Gina M. Villa

Mark WAID
WRITER

Steve EPTING
PENCILER

Rick MAGYAR
INKER

Frank D'ARMATA
COLORIST

Dave LANPHEAR with Troy PETERI
LETTERERS

Mark Alessi
Publisher & CEO

Gina M. Villa
Chief Operating Officer

Michael A. Beattie
Chief Financial Officer

Tony Panaccio
Vice President Product Development

Chris Oarr
Director of Marketing & Sales

James Breitbeil
Director of Marketing & Distribution

Ian M. Feller
Director of Corporate Communications

Barbara Kesel
Head Writer

Brandon Peterson
Art Director

Bart Sears
Assistant Art Director

Pam Davies
Production Director

Sylvia Bretz
Janet Bechtle
Production Assistants

Dave Lanphear
Design Director

Troy Peteri
Design Assistant

Michelle Pugliese
FreelanceCoordinator

CROSSGEN COMICS
9
JAN
$2.95
$4.50 CAN
www.crossgen.com
CROSSGEN
Mark Waid
Steve Epting
Rick Magyar
Frank D'Armata

THE STORY THUS FAR...

THEY WERE THE ATLANTEANS,

a peaceful civilization of artists and philosophers who used their phenomenal mental and physical skills to build an island utopia. They had but one responsibility: to guide and shepherd Earth's newborn race of *homo sapiens* towards a grand and glorious destiny. But when a mysterious cataclysm plunged Atlantis and its people beneath the waves, six – and only six – were awakened by a mysterious stranger one thousand centuries later to find their utopia forgotten and in ruins, their brothers and sisters caught in an unshakeable slumber...and the human race gone, having vanished centuries ago under circumstances that have been mysterious...

...until now. Capricia's team has finally learned the truth: millennia ago, humanity leapt forth to a new plane of existence, leaving behind those deemed "unworthy" – a band of humans Capricia's team has at last found. But that discovery has created more questions than it has answers...

The mental and physical abilities of the Atlanteans are identical in nature but not in application. Capricia and her teammates have each channeled their abilities into different skills:

CAPRICIA	TUG	ZEPHYRE	GALVAN & GAMMID	VERITYN
Shapeshifter and empath	Telekinetic strongman	Hypermetabolic intellectual	Manipulators of the electromagnetic spectrum	Seer of all truths

Crux™ ... JANUARY 2003. FIRST PRINTING. Published by CrossGeneration Comics, Inc. Office of publication: 4123 Tampa Road, Suite 2[illegible], Oldsmar, Florida 34677. CrossGen®, CrossGen Comics®, CrossGeneration® and CrossGeneration Comics® are registered trademarks of CrossGeneration Comics, Inc. Crux™, the CrossGen sigil™, and all prominent characters are ™ and © 2002 CrossGeneration Comics, Inc. All rights reserved. The entire contents of this book are ™ and © 2002 CrossGeneration Comics, Inc. The stories, names, and characters in this publication are fictional. Any similarities to persons living or dead are purely coincidental. With the exception of artwork used for review purposes, none of the contents of this book may be reproduced in any form without the express written consent of CrossGeneration Comics, Inc. PRINTED IN CANADA

The Devastator scan

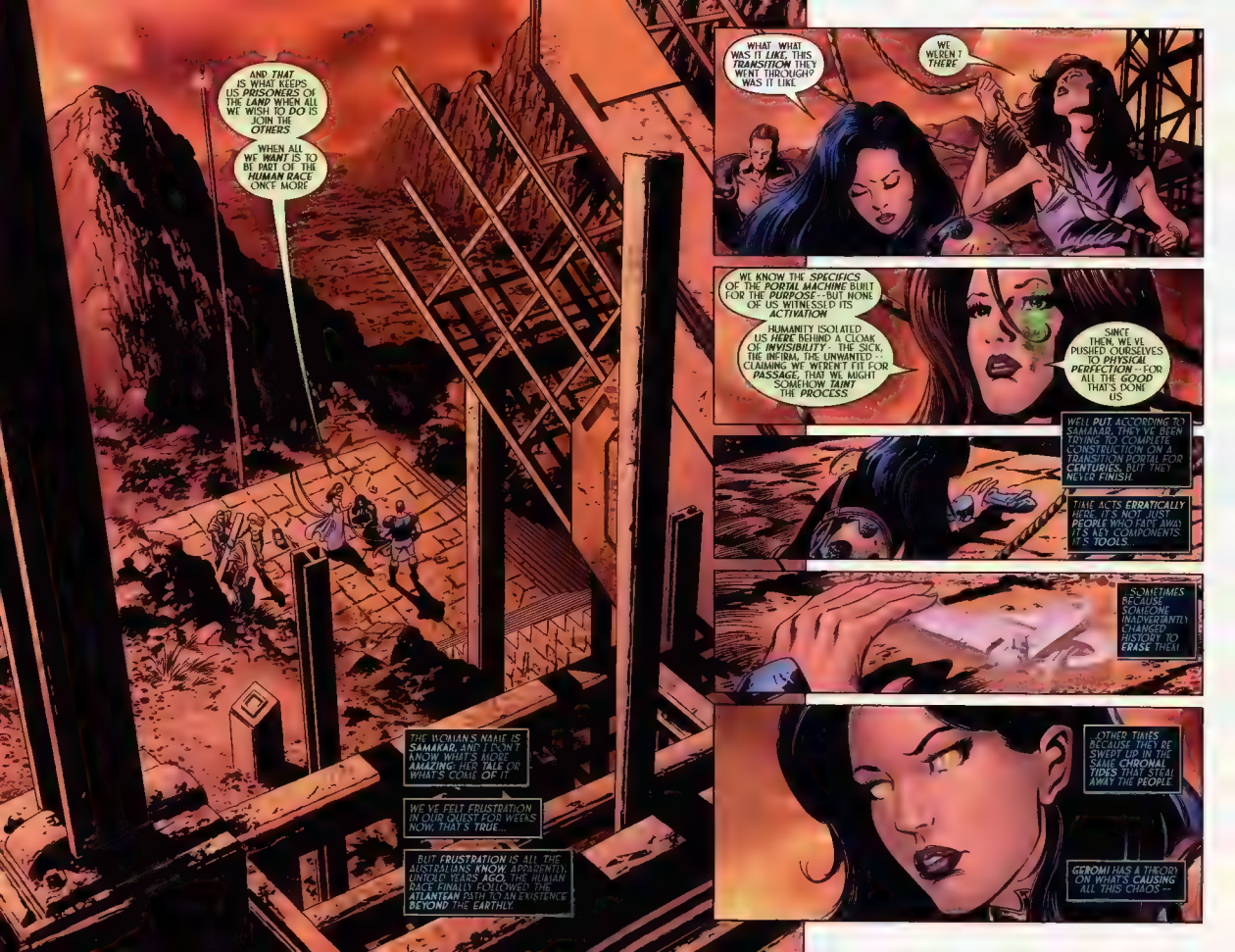
THE FIRST TIME, FOR EXAMPLE, WE WERE ALMOST *THERE* CONSTRUCTION WAS *HOURS* FROM COMPLETION
THE *MACHINE* ENGINEERED AROUND AN IRREPLACEABLE RADIOACTIVE *ORE* MINED FROM THE *NORTH CLIFFS* TWENTY YEARS *PREVIOUS* WITHOUT THAT ORE THE REST OF THE MACHINE WOULD BE *USELESS*
SO, OF *COURSE*, JUST BEFORE WE COULD PUT IT TO *USE* IT *VANISHED* FROM TECHNICIAN DRURAN'S HANDS
A SECOND LATER DRURAN *HIMSELF* FELT A PRICKLING TINGLE OF ENERGY
--AND IN AN *EMERALD HAZE*, THE WORLD *AROUND* HIM FADED *FROM* HIS SIGHT

REPLACED IN A BLINK BY AN ENTIRELY NEW AND BAFFLING POINT-OF-VIEW
DRURAN'S MIND WAS REELING THE ORE FRAGMENT WAS THERE WITH HIM BUT HOW COULD THEY BE PULLING IT FRESH FROM A MINE? HADN'T THAT ALREADY HAPPENED?
WAS HE HALLUCINATING? EXPERIENCING SOME WEIRD VISION?
NO NO, HE WAS THERE IN THE FLESH HIS SUDDEN PRESENCE STARTLING THE MINER--
--HIS PHYSICAL MASS TEETERING THE SCAFFOLD HANGING FROM THE NORTH CLIFFS--

--THE CASCADE OF HIS *ARRIVAL* TUMBLING THE MINER--AND THE *ORE*--INTO *FREEFALL*
--NEVER TO BE *RECOVERED*
DRURAN WAS *SPEECHLESS* WITH THE HORROR OF *REALIZATION* WITHOUT INTENT -- WITHOUT *WARNING* -- HE HAD SOMEHOW BEEN PULLED THROUGH *TIME* --
--AND HAD IN AN *INSTANT* CHANGED *HISTORY* HE HAD *DESTROYED* THE ORE BEFORE IT COULD EVER BE *USED* -- MAKING MONTHS OF BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION *POINTLESS*.
IT WAS AN *ACCIDENT* -- BUT THE *SCAR* LEFT BY WHATEVER ENERGY HAD *TRANSPORTED* HIM NONETHELESS MARKED HIS *GUILT*
IN A *DAZE*, DRURAN WANDERED THE STREETS OF HIS *CHILDHOOD* OCCASIONALLY, HE SAW *OTHERS* SCARRED *LIKE* HIM -- COWERING, WITHDRAWN, *MOTIONLESS*
HE TRIED REACHING *OUT* TO THEM, BUT THEY WOULD NOT REACH *BACK*
A VICTIM OF FORCES *UNKNOWN*, DRURAN QUICKLY SANK INTO DESPAIR --

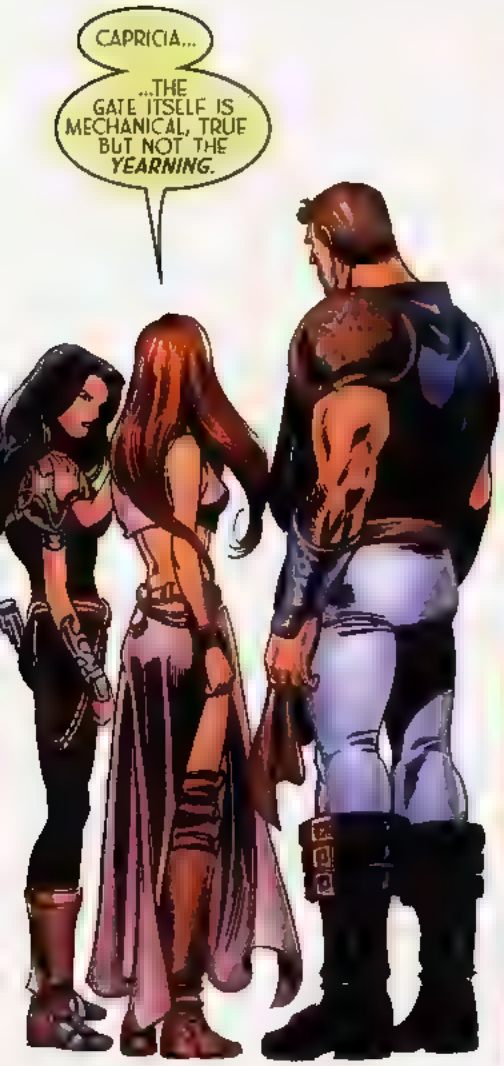
--BUT WHEN HE SAW HIMSELF AS A YOUNG BOY -- SO FULL OF LIFE, SO UNAWARE OF WHAT SADISM DESTINY HAD IN STORE FOR HIM -- DRURAN SNAPPED
HE BEGAN BADGERING ONE OF THE SCARRED -- DEMANDING SHE SPEAK TO HIM, EXPLAIN HERSELF, DO SOMETHING --
AND SHE DID. SHE FLED IN TERROR --
--AS SHE RAN, KNOCKING YOUNG DRURAN OFF HIS FEET--
--AND DIRECTLY INTO THE PATH OF AN APPROACHING HOVERBIKE
FRANTICALLY, ADULT DRURAN MOVED TO PULL THE BOY TO SAFETY --
TOO LATE

SUDDENLY, MEMORIES BEGAN TO *EXPLODE* IN DRURAN'S HEAD MEMORIES THAT, UNTIL THAT *SECOND*, HAD NEVER *EXISTED*
IN THAT INSTANT, HE REMEMBERED NOT ONLY THE *TRAUMA* OF THAT COLLISION--
BUT WHAT IT HAD *COST* HIM
DRURAN NOW UNDERSTOOD WHY THOSE *LIKE* HIM WERE SO *FRIGHTENED*. THEY, *TOO*, HAD BEEN FLUNG THROUGH TIME
THEY, *TOO*, HAD DISCOVERED THAT TO INTERACT WITH THE PAST, TO AFFECT IT IN ANY WAY--EVEN TO *SPEAK* THE WRONG *WORDS*--WOULD SET IN MOTION A CHAIN OF EVENTS THAT WOULD CHANGE THE *FUTURE*
DRURAN WAS AMONG THE *FIRST* TO LEARN THIS. BY *NOW*, WE *ALL* HAVE. BY NOW, EVERY MAN, WOMAN AND CHILD IN THIS *LAND* HAS BEEN CATAPULTED *REPEATEDLY* THROUGH THE TIMESTREAM
--SOMETIMES TEN DAYS BACK SOMETIMES TEN *CENTURIES*--TOTALLY AT *RANDOM*--LEAVING THEM *PARALYZED*, AFRAID TO DO MUCH OF *ANYTHING*--
--FOR FEAR THEY'LL CREATE A CAUSALITY EFFECT THAT WILL REMOVE *THEMSELVES* FROM EXISTENCE

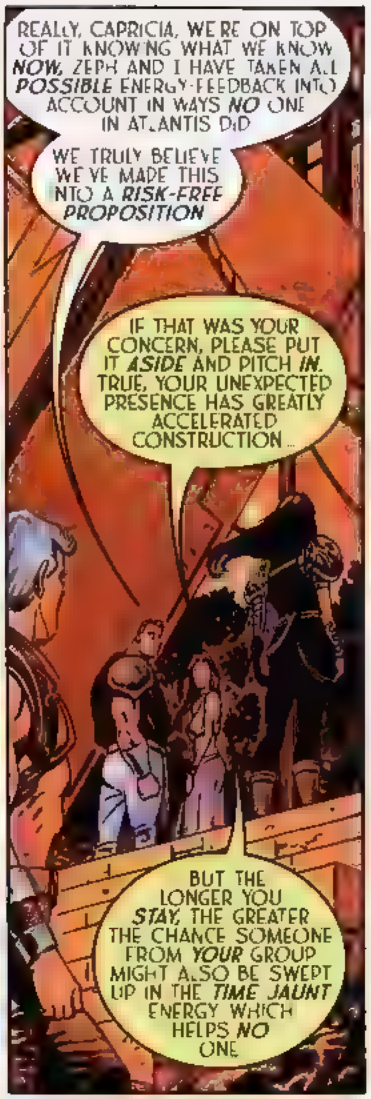

AND THAT IS WHAT KEEPS US PRISONERS OF THE LAND WHEN ALL WE WISH TO DO IS JOIN THE OTHERS
WHEN ALL WE WANT IS TO BE PART OF THE HUMAN RACE ONCE MORE
THE WOMAN'S NAME IS SAMAKAR, AND I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S MORE AMAZING: HER TALE OR WHAT'S COME OF IT.
WE'VE FELT FRUSTRATION IN OUR QUEST FOR WEEKS NOW, THAT'S TRUE...
BUT FRUSTRATION IS ALL THE AUSTRALIANS KNOW. APPARENTLY, UNTOLD YEARS AGO, THE HUMAN RACE FINALLY FOLLOWED THE ATLANTEAN PATH TO AN EXISTENCE BEYOND THE EARTHLY.
WHAT WAS IT LIKE, THIS TRANSITION THEY WENT THROUGH? WAS IT LIKE
WE WEREN'T THERE
WE KNOW THE SPECIFICS OF THE PORTAL MACHINE BUILT FOR THE PURPOSE--BUT NONE OF US WITNESSED ITS ACTIVATION
HUMANITY ISOLATED US HERE BEHIND A CLOAK OF INVISIBILITY - THE SICK, THE INFIRM, THE UNWANTED -- CLAIMING WE WEREN'T FIT FOR PASSAGE, THAT WE MIGHT SOMEHOW TAINT THE PROCESS
SINCE THEN, WE'VE PUSHED OURSELVES TO PHYSICAL PERFECTION -- FOR ALL THE GOOD THAT'S DONE US
WELL BUT ACCORDING TO SAMAKAR, THEY'VE BEEN TRYING TO COMPLETE CONSTRUCTION ON A TRANSITION PORTAL FOR CENTURIES, BUT THEY NEVER FINISH.
TIME ACTS ERRATICALLY HERE. IT'S NOT JUST PEOPLE WHO FADE AWAY. IT'S AID COMPONENTS, IT'S TOOLS...
SOMETIMES BECAUSE SOMEONE INADVERTENTLY CHANGED HISTORY TO ERASE THEM
OTHER TIMES BECAUSE THEY'RE SWEPT UP IN THE SAME CHRONAL TIDES THAT STEAL AWAY THE PEOPLE
GEROMI HAS A THEORY ON WHAT'S CAUSING ALL THIS CHAOS --

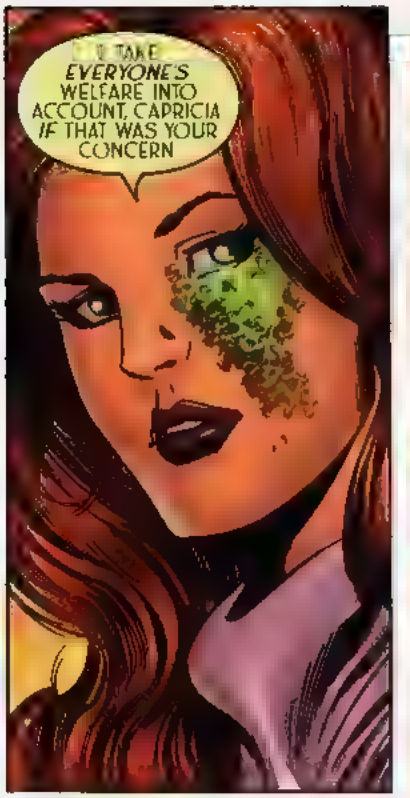
-- SO I SENT AN INVESTIGATIVE TEAM.
GENTLEMEN, WELCOME TO EARTH'S POWER SOURCE, THE TACHYON SUPERCOLLIDER
THE MAGNETS THAT CONTROL IT ALONE ARE STRONG ENOUGH TO WONK OUT THE ELECTROMAGNETIC SPECTRUM ALL OVER THE CONTINENT -- HENCE THE BIZARRE COLOR OF THE SKY. AND THAT'S NOT EVEN THE IMPRESSIVE PART
WHAT'S IMPRESSIVE IS THAT THE SUPERCOLLIDER PROVIDES ENERGY WORLDWIDE
-- DESPITE, I MIGHT ADD, THE FACT THAT IT'S CURRENTLY LEAKING LIKE A SIEVE
AND THAT IS WHY THE CALENDAR BUSINESS IS SO DEPRESSED HERE IN AUSTRALIA
SEE, TACHYONS ARE FASTER-THAN-LIGHT PARTICLES WITH -- THEY SAY -- TIME-TRAVEL PROPERTIES
PAK
OW!
NO ONE'S EVER PROVEN THAT LAST PART, BUT GIVEN WHAT WE'VE SEEN, I'M GOING OUT ON A LIMB AND SAY, YEAH, IT'S TRUE
-- ESPECIALLY IF THEY'RE ROCKETING UNRESTRAINED THROUGH THE AREA
SUPER ROCK
NO WONDER AUSTRALIA'S SUCH A MESS IF IT'S GROUND ZERO. TIME'S NOT FLOWING LINEARLY FOR MUCH OF ANYTHING
INCLUDING ROCKS. BY THE WAY, YOU JUST CONKED YOUR PAST SELF IN THE HEAD
I'VE BEEN USING THE TERRA COGNITO WETFRAMES AND DATANODES TO GATHER INFORMATION AND SPECS WITH YOU GUYS AS MY HANDS. I THINK WE CAN REPAIR THE RUPTURE
-- BUT WE HAVE TO DO IT WITH UTMOST CARE. YOU DO NOT MAKE A MOVE WITHOUT MY GUIDANCE
NOT ONE MOVE

-- DESIGNED THE NEGATRON CAPACITORS MYSELF
YES, BUT DID YOU
-- ACCOUNT FOR DECAY INTO THE SEVENTH DIMENSION? WHY WOULDN'T I?
BECAUSE CLEARLY, I WASN'T GIVING YOU ENOUGH CREDIT
SHE DESIGNS HER OWN NEGATRON CAPACITORS
HEY, IF THIS TRANSITION THING DOESN'T WORK OUT, WILL YOU MARRY ME?
Y KNOW, CAPRICIA, SOME OF US ARE ACTUALLY PULLING OUR WEIGHT
LEAVE HER ALONE, GALVAN YOU CAN SEE SHE'S WORRIED
AND WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY THAT ?
PRETTY OBVIOUS, NO? YOU'RE REMEMBERING WHAT HAPPENED THE LAST TIME YOU WERE AT GROUND ZERO OF A TRANSITION EVENT
RELAX IT'S ALL BEEN ACCOUNTED FOR AND
STOP!
STOP RIGHT THERE!
ALL WHAT'S BEEN ACCOUNTED FOR? WHAT IS THIS 'TRANSITION,' ANYWAY?
IF THAT REALLY IS WHAT HAPPENED TO THE HUMAN RACE, THEN THANK THE GODS THEY FOUND THEIR ULTIMATE DESTINY EVEN WITHOUT OUR GUIDANCE --
-- OR DID THEY? IT SOUNDS TO ME THAT, WORKING PURELY OFF OUR LEGEND, THEY MECHANICALLY RECREATED A SPIRITUAL VOYAGE AND DISAPPEARED INTO PARTS UNKNOWN
WHY IS EVERYONE ASSUMING THAT'S A GOOD THING?

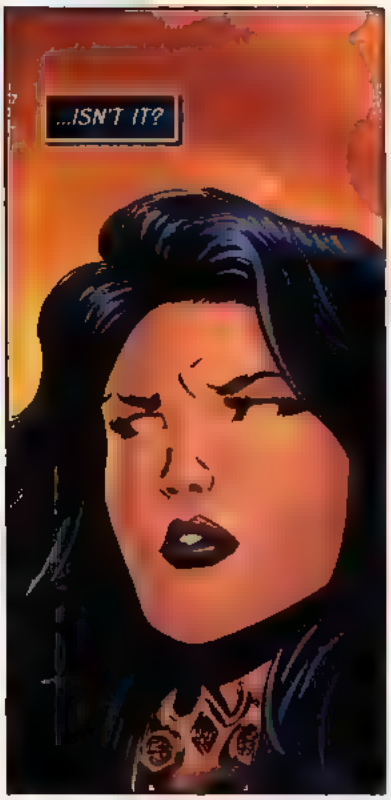

CAPRICIA...
...THE GATE ITSELF IS MECHANICAL, TRUE BUT NOT THE YEARNING.

WHAT HAVE WE NOW? SO MANY SO FRIGHTENED TO LIVE THAT I AND A FEW OTHERS FEEL COMPELLED TO MOVE US BEYOND THAT STATE REGARDLESS OF THE RISK
I TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR MY PEOPLE. SURELY YOU CAN UNDERSTAND THAT
I...
OF COURSE


REALLY, CAPRICIA, WE'RE ON TOP OF IT KNOWING WHAT WE KNOW NOW. ZEPH AND I HAVE TAKEN ALL POSSIBLE ENERGY-FEEDBACK INTO ACCOUNT IN WAYS NO ONE IN ATLANTIS DID
WE TRULY BELIEVE WE'VE MADE THIS INTO A RISK-FREE PROPOSITION
IF THAT WAS YOUR CONCERN, PLEASE PUT IT ASIDE AND PITCH IN. TRUE, YOUR UNEXPECTED PRESENCE HAS GREATLY ACCELERATED CONSTRUCTION...
BUT THE LONGER YOU STAY, THE GREATER THE CHANCE SOMEONE FROM YOUR GROUP MIGHT ALSO BE SWEPT UP IN THE TIME JAUNT ENERGY WHICH HELPS NO ONE


I TAKE EVERYONE'S WELFARE INTO ACCOUNT, CAPRICIA IF THAT WAS YOUR CONCERN

AND THERE THEY GO! ARM-IN-ARM AGAIN. THEY SEEM TO KNOW WHAT THEY'RE TALKING ABOUT, THOSE TWO. IN FACT, THEY'VE GOTTEN ANNOYINGLY FRIENDLY ANNOYINGLY FAST.
IT IS THE QUESTION OF SAFETY THAT'S BOTHERING ME...


...ISN'T IT?

‹THIS IS PURPOSELESS›
‹SINCE WHEN IS THAT FOR YOU TO DECIDE?›
‹SINCE I LED US IN A MISSION THAT SUCCEEDED FAR BEYOND EXPECTATION›
‹AND YOU'RE PROUD OF THAT?›
‹JOHR GRAX'AS GAVE YOU SPECIFIC ORDERS. I WAS THERE I HEARD.›
‹AND HE DOESN'T HAVE A REPUTATION FOR REWARDING IMPROVISATION›

<DATA ENTRY ATLANTEAN CAPRICIA >
<ABILITIES DEMONSTRATED RUDIMENTARY TACTICAL SKILLS, CELLUMORPHIC ALTERATION, CLASS U STRENGTH >
<WEAKNESSES DEMONSTRATED >
<'CORPSELIKE WOULD BE ONE >
<JUST AS DID THE "BUGS" YOU'VE BEEN SENDING SIR, WE ALSO TESTED THE ATLANTEANS IN COMBAT >
< AND GATHERED DATA ON THE LAST OF THEM >
< BUT I'M NOT SURE HOW MUCH USE IT WILL BE SINCE WE VAPORIZED THEM DEAD >

<SHOW ME>

<WITH WEAPONS OF THAT LEVEL, YOU VAPORIZED THESE BEINGS>
<Y-YES, SIR. ATOMIZED THEM INTO THIN AIR. NO TRACE LEFT.>
<WITH ALL DUE RESPECT, SIR. LOOK AROUND. WHERE COULD THEY HAVE GONE?>
<WHY DON'T WE SEE?>

KRAK
VAPORIZED

THAT'S IT MOLECULE BY MOLECULE TAKE IT VERY SLOWLY
AND WHATEVER YOU DO, STAY CLEAR OF THE LEAKAGE IT'S
GEROMI, I HAVE IN MY TIME DEALT WITH FORCES YOU CANNOT EVEN BEGIN TO COMPREHEND
I
DON'T
CARE
WHAT?
YOU HEARD ME. I'M USED TO YOU TALKING TO EVERYONE LIKE THEY'RE A MORON, BUT GUESS WHAT? AT THIS JUNCTURE, WE ARE SOLIDLY WITHIN MY AREA OF EXPERTISE, SO LET ME DO MY JOB.
THE ENERGIES HERE, IF EVEN REMOTELY MISHANDLED, COULD POP THIS PLANET LIKE A SOAP BUBBLE BEFORE I COULD SAY 'I TOLD YOU SO,' KILLING ZE-
--KILLING EVERYONE ON THIS TEAM
I HAVE THE FACTS. I HAVE THE SMARTS. SO WE WILL DO THIS MY WAY. GOT IT?
GOT IT
NOW YOU'RE PATRONIZING ME? DO YOU EVER NOT WANT PEOPLE TO STRANGLE YOU?

THIS IS NOT CONDESCENSION, GEROM. THIS IS
WELL, CALL IT SURPRISE
APPARENTLY THERE IS MORE TO YOU THAN I INITIALLY PRESUMED
THAT'S GOOD TO KNOW
GEE THANKS, DAD
SIGH
YES VERITY?
IN THE BRUSH I SEE SOMETHING!
IT'S ONE OF THOSE NEGATION SOLDIERS! HE'S PLANTED A--
MEEP
THWOOM
OH NO
CAPRICIA!
I HEAR YOU, VERITY! WHAT WAS THAT?
THE NEGATION! THEY'RE BOMBING THE COLLIDER! HURRY!
THERE! I MAY BE ABLE TO CONTAIN IT--!
DON'T!
YOU HAVE TO REDIRECT IT! BOTTLE IT UP TOO TIGHT
AND IT'LL FIND SOME OTHER RELEASE!
DAMN--!!

GEROM! WE'RE HERE! WHAT CAN WE DO?
IT'S TOO LATE! BOMB -- CHAIN REACTION--
OH, HELL-- RUN!
GET AS FAR AWAY AS YOU CAN, AS FAST AS YOU CAN WHILE RED AND I TRY TO FIX THIS! GO!
VERITYN !
I'LL GRAB HIM!
GO! WE'LL BE RIGHT BEHIND YOU!
NO!
NOT YOU TOO
NNUUHH!

VERITYN
VERITYN!
THE STRANGER! WHY DID HE ?
HE KNEW IT WAS TOO LATE, ZEPHYRE
HE WANTED TO SAVE YOU
GONE THEY'RE GONE JUST LIKE THAT CAPRICIA

WHAT DO WE DO NOW. ?

The CrossGen Universe created by Mark Alessi & Gina M. Villa

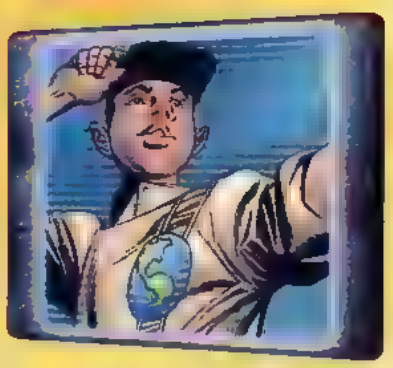
Mark **WAID**
WRITER

Steve **EPTING**
PENCILER

Rick **MAGYAR**
INKER

Frank **D'ARMATA**
COLORIST

Dave **LANPHEAR** with
Troy **PETERI**
LETTERERS



Mark Alessi
Publisher & CEO
Gina M. Villa
Chief Operating Officer
Michael A. Beattie
Chief Financial Officer
Tony Panaccio
Vice President
Product Development
Brandon Peterson
Vice President
Production Control
Chris Oarr
Director of
Marketing & Sales
James Breitbeil
Director of
Marketing &
Distribution
Ian M. Feller
Director of Corporate
Communications
Barbara Kesel
Head Writer
Bart Sears
Art Director
Pam Davies
Production Director
Sylvia Bretz
Janet Bechtle
Production Assistants
Dave Lanphear
Design Director
Troy Peteri
Design Assistant
Michelle Pugliese
Freelance Coordinator

CROSSGEN COMICS
10
FEB
$2.95
$4.50 CAN
www.crossgen.com
Mark Waid
Steve Epting
Rick Magyar
Frank D'Armata

THE STORY THUS FAR...

THEY WERE THE ATLANTEANS,

a peaceful civilization of artists and philosophers who used their phenomenal mental and physical skills to build an island utopia. They had but one responsibility: to guide and shepherd Earth's newborn race of *homo sapiens* towards a grand and glorious destiny. But when a mysterious cataclysm plunged Atlantis and its people beneath the waves, six – and only six – were awakened by a mysterious stranger one thousand centuries later to find their utopia forgotten and in ruins, their brothers and sisters caught in an unshakeable slumber...and the human race gone, having vanished centuries ago in the Transition, a passage to a higher plane of existence.

Capricia and her allies, however, have discovered a "lost tribe" of humans on the continent known as Australia – who desperately race against time to construct a machine that will allow them to duplicate the Transition event. Their fuel, however, is chronal energy – a sudden explosion of which has sent Veritya and the mysterious stranger to parts unknown at a most inopportune time...

...for these Atlanteans remaining now find themselves the prey of an alien hunter they cannot possibly hope to defeat.

The mental and physical abilities of the Atlanteans are identical in nature but not in application. Capricia and her teammates have each channeled their abilities into different skills:

CAPRICIA	TUG	ZEPHYRE	GALVAN & GAMMID	VERITYN
Shapeshifter and empath	Telekinetic strongman	Hypermetabolic intellectual	Manipulators of the electromagnetic spectrum	Seer of all truths

Crux™ Vol. 1, Issue 10, FEBRUARY 2002. FIRST PRINTING. Published by CrossGeneration Comics, Inc. Office of publication: 4023 Tampa Road, Suite 2400, Oldsmar, Florida 34677. CrossGen®, CrossGen Comics®, CrossGeneration®, and CrossGeneration Comics® are registered trademarks of CrossGeneration Comics, Inc. Crux™, the CrossGen sigil™, and all prominent characters are ™ and © 2002 CrossGeneration Comics, Inc. All rights reserved. The entire contents of this book are ™ and © 2002 CrossGeneration Comics, Inc. The stories, incidents, and characters in this publication are fictional. Any similarities to persons living or dead are purely coincidental. With the exception of artwork used for review purposes, none of the contents of this book may be reproduced in any form without the express written consent of CrossGeneration Comics, Inc. PRINTED IN CANADA

I WISH I CARED MORE ABOUT HIS SITUATION.
GEROMI IS A TECHNICIAN AND HISTORIAN WITH TERRA COGNITO, THE CORPORATION WHO REBUILT AND "REDECORATED" EARTH IN HUMANITY'S ABSENCE.
ONCE THE NEGATION BEGAN ATTACKING THE PLANET, HOWEVER, GEROMI WAS THE ONLY COGNITO EMPLOYEE WHO MISSED THE MASS EVACUATION. FORTUNATELY FOR HIM, THE COGNITO FACILITY MAKES A REASONABLY COMFORTABLE HOME.
SINCE WE MET, HE'S BEEN INVALUABLE AS OUR GUIDE TO THE WORLD, STAYING IN CONSTANT CONTACT BY MEANS OF A MINIATURE TELESCREEN THAT RARELY LEAVES ZEPHYRE'S SIDE.
"CONSTANT," THAT IS...
AAAAAAAUUUGH!
...UNTIL ABOUT THREE MINUTES AGO.

KAY KAY WE FOUND *AUSTRALIA* IT'S GENERATING ALL EARTH'S *POWER* USING A *TACHYON SUPERCOLLIDER*
BEFORE, THE SUPERCOLLIDER'S *MAGNETS* WERE SO INTENSE THAT IT *BENT* MY *SIGNALS* UNLESS I FED THE *COMM UNIT* ENOUGH JUICE TO LIGHT UP NORTH *AND* SOUTH AMERICA
KAY I CAN *DO* THIS
JUST NEED TO REROUTE THE *ETHERTRON FLOW* TO THE CENTRAL PROCESSOR OR TO PUT IT *ANOTHER* WAY
GOOD NIGHT, *ASIA*
NUTHIN

NOW, THE SUPERCOLLIDER'S RUPTURED, AND SUDDENLY I'M TALKING TO A WALL OF STATIC THAT'S THE SECOND WORST NEWS I'VE HEARD LATELY
THE FIRST IS THAT I'VE BEEN ALONE HERE SO LONG THAT I'M TALKING TO MYSELF.
C'MON, GUYS I KNOW YOU'RE OUT THERE! CAN YOU HEAR ME?
ZEPH?
ANYONE?
I IMAGINE GEROMI'S PRETTY AGGRAVATED AT THIS MOMENT.
AS I SAY, I WISH I CARED MORE ABOUT HIS SITUATION, BUT I REALLY CAN'T RIGHT NOW.

WE'VE GOT ONE OF OUR OWN.

LADY SAMAKAR, THOSE NOISES--!
I THOUGHT THE ATLANTEANS WENT TO REPAIR OUR GENERATOR -- NOT SABOTAGE IT FURTHER! WHAT ARE THEY--?
I HAVE NO IDEA, AND FRANKLY, I DON'T CARE. WE'RE CLOSER TO ACHIEVING OUR OWN GOALS THAN EVER, AND WE HAVEN'T THE TIME TO INVESTIGATE.

ALL WE CAN DO IS CARRY ON WITH THE CONSTRUCTION --
-AND HOPE THEY'RE ALL RIGHT

ALL WRONG. THIS IS ALL WRONG.

FIRST, THE STRANGER AND VERITYN VANISH --
--AND BEFORE WE CAN EVEN PROCESS THAT, WE'RE UNDER ATTACK. AGAIN.
BUT IT'S NOT LIKE THE OTHER TIMES. BEFORE, WE COULD AT LEAST STAND OUR GROUND AGAINST OUR NEGATION ASSAILANTS.

THIS NEW ONE IS USING WEAPONS THAT MAKE THEIRS LOOK LIKE SLINGSHOTS.

DON'T KNOW WHICH WAY THE OTHERS RAN, BUT AT LEAST I PUT SOME DISTANCE BETWEEN MYSELF AND THE ENEMY.
NOW AT LEAST I HAVE A CHANCE TO PLAN SOME SORT OF COUNTERATTACK.

I'M DEAD.

TURN RIGHT!
ARE YOU CRAZY? LEFT! LEFT!
IF YOU JUST WANT TO RUN BACK INTO THEIR HANDS, YOU IDIOT, THEN OKAY! THEY'RE STILL BEHIND US, RIGHT?
NO
THEY RE ABOVE US
DAMN IT! HOW CAN THEY MISS US FROM UP THERE?

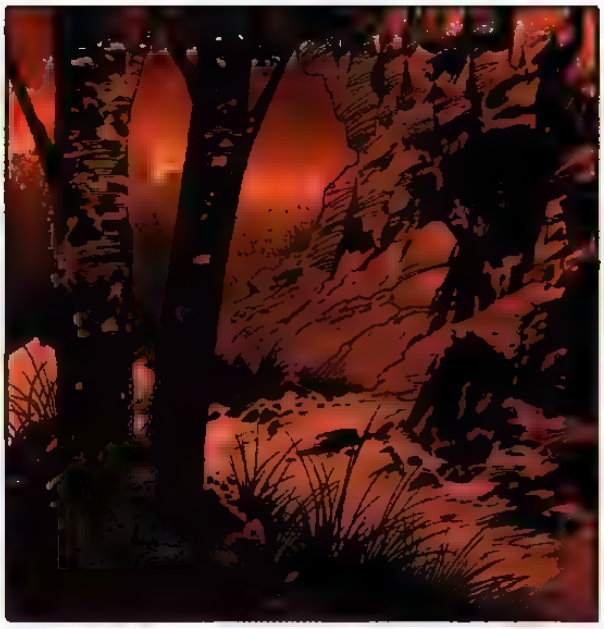
BY NOT BEING ABLE TO SEE THROUGH SOLID ROCK CRAWL IN! GO!
AND GO AHEAD LET S HAVE IT. I ALWAYS FIGURED THE LAST SOUND I D HEAR IN THIS LIFETIME WAS ONE OF YOUR ASININE COMPLAINTS, SO OUT WITH IT

IT'S TOO SHALLOW IN HERE, YOU MORON"
THEY LL TRACE OUR BODY TEMPERATURES, YOU JERK '
WHAT'LL IT BE?
GAMMD

WHAT DO WE DO NOW?

THE LAST TIME YOU ASKED ME A QUESTION, WE WERE NINE, AND IT WAS, 'WHY ARE YOU HITTING YOURSELF? HUH? WHY ARE YOU HITTING YOURSELF?'
SHUT UP AND LISTEN IT'S ALL FALLING APART AND I THINK WE'RE GOING TO DIE AND I WANT TO BE ABLE TO STAND YOU JUST THIS ONCE.
YOU CAN'T STAND ME LITTLE HARSH
JUST FIGURE SOMETHING OUT, OKAY? HURRY!
WHY IS THIS UP TO --
BECAUSE YOU'RE THE SMART ONE!
YOU'RE THE SMART ONE
LOOK I'M NOT
AND DON'T CONDESCEND YOU'RE ONLY MAKING IT WORSE YOU'RE SO ARROGANT --!

SAYS THE *LOUDMOUTH*
LOUDMOUTHS GET *HEARD.*



YOU REALLY CAN'T *STAND* ME
LET'S NOT TALK ABOUT THIS ANY MORE
WE NEED A *PLAN,* AND WE BOTH KNOW IT HAD BETTER NOT BE *MINE,* BECAUSE MINE ALWAYS INVOLVES LEADING WITH OUR *FACES*
OKAY GEROMI SAID THE REASON WE'RE HAVING TROUBLE ACCESSING *EM* ENERGY IS BECAUSE OF THE MAGNET IN THAT STUPID *SUPERCOLLIDER,* CORRECT? IT'S WARPING THE WHOLE *SPECTRUM* HERE, RIGHT?
WELL I REFUSE TO HAVE MY CAUSE OF DEATH BE A *MAGNET* WE HAVEN'T *POOLED* OUR POWER FOR A WHILE NOW--

--AND WHILE THE *WHY* OF THAT IS *ABUNDANTLY* CLEAR, WE HAVE *GOT* TO WORK *TOGETHER.* BETWEEN THE *TWO* OF US, WE OUGHT TO BE ABLE TO MANAGE *SOMETHING* IN THE WAY OF FIREPOWER

HOW HARD CAN IT BE TO FIND TWO RELATIVELY POWERLESS *TWINS?*
NEXT TIME, I'LL BRING SMARTER *SOLDIERS.*
Oh *WAIT*
THERE'S NOT GOING TO *BE* A NEXT TIME
I WANTED TO KILL YOU ALL AT *ONCE,* BUT WHY NOT *SPREAD* THE JOY?
Ah. *TELEKINESIS* AT WORK. THAT'S A *PROBLEM.*
WELL...
NOT MUCH ROOM FOR ERROR *NOW,* IS THERE?
NNGH!

GET AWAY FROM HIM!
THWAM

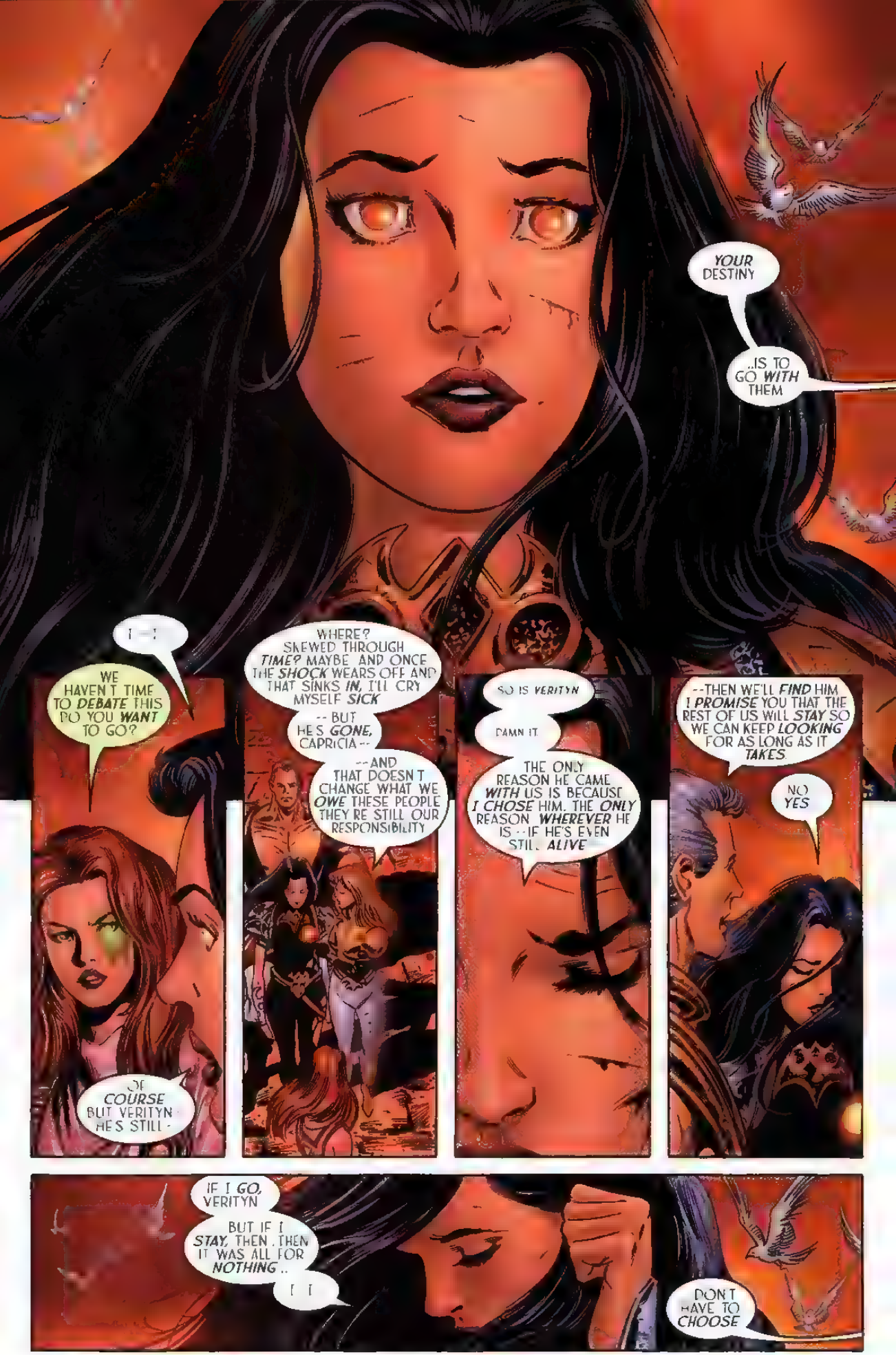
I'M...ALIVE. HURT...
...WHAT DID HE...HIT ME WITH...? WHERE DOES ENERGY LIKE THAT...COME FROM...?
WAIT...IS THAT AN ANSWER? ON HIS BACK...SOME SORT OF CAPACITOR OR BATTERY THAT GLOWS WHEN HE SHOOTS--
-LIKE NOW!
ZEPH LOOK OUT--!
-GNNNGH!-
NO, NO! NO!
I BELIEVE WHAT YOU MEANT TO SAY WAS "AAAIIIEEEEEE!"
LET'S GIVE IT ANOTHER TRY

AAARGH!
LOOKING FOR US?
WHOMP
WHOMP
WHAT

THE TWINS. THEY HAVE PERFECT TIMING--
--BUT A LOUSY ANGLE. LET'S SEE WHAT HAPPENS--
--IF I GIVE THEM A CLEAR SHOT AT THE RIGHT TARGET.
SHOOK

IT WORKED. EXPLODING THE DEVICE THE HUNTER WAS USING TO DRAW ENERGY FROM HIS HOME DIMENSION TOOK HIM OUT. HARD.
BEFORE I CAN GET TWO WORDS OUT OF MY MOUTH, ZEPH HAS STRIPPED OUR UNCONSCIOUS CAPTIVES OF THEIR WEAPONS AND BOUND THEM WITH SCRAP CABLE FROM THE SUPERCOLLIDER.
THIS IS A NEW EXPERIENCE FOR US. FINALLY, WE'VE CAPTURED SOMEONE WHO--ONCE THEY WAKE UP--CAN TELL US SOMETHING ABOUT THIS "NEGATION" THAT SO BADLY WANTS US DEAD. INVALUABLE INFORMATION.
FIRST, THOUGH, WE'VE GOT TO FINISH WHAT WE CAME HERE TO DO. THE AUSTRALIANS ARE COUNTING ON US... AND COUNTING THE MINUTES WE'RE GONE.
WITH GEROMI'S DIRECTIONS AND HELP FROM TUG'S TK, ZEPH HURRIES TO PATCH UP THE SUPERCOLLIDER, STAVING OFF--HOWEVER TEMPORARILY--THE CHRONAL DISCHARGES THAT HAVE PLAGUED THE LOCALS...
...WHILE THE TWINS HEAD BACK TO ADVISE SAMAKAR.
GAMMID, LOOK ABOUT WHAT I--WHAT I SAID BEFORE
NO, I'M GLAD YOU SPOKE YOUR MIND WE'VE BOTH BEEN HOLDING BACK TOO LONG, AND THE TRUTH IS
--I CAN'T STAND YOU EITHER

WOULD THAT WE COULD THANK YOU AND YOUR PEOPLE *ENOUGH*, CAPRICIA BUT THERE ARE *NO WORDS*
WE HAVE ENDURED THOUSANDS OF YEARS OF *DISAPPOINTMENT* IN PURSUIT OF THIS *ONE MOMENT*
THE TRANSITION DEVICE IS *COMPLETE* ALL OUR PREPARATIONS HAVE BEEN *MADE*. BECAUSE OF *YOU*, AT *LAST*..
..WE STAND AT THE THRESHOLD OF *HEAVEN*
WE CANNOT *TARRY*, HOWEVER THE *TIMESTREAM IRREGULARITIES* COULD RESUME AT *ANY SECOND*
I'M AFRAID THAT DOESN'T GIVE ME MUCH CHANCE TO SAY *FAREWELL*
THEN *DON'T* NOT TO *CAPRICIA*
WHAT?
THE REST OF US WE'VE TALKED IT *OVER* CAPRICIA. THIS IS WHAT YOU'VE WANTED MORE THAN *ANY* OF US ALL *ALONG*
--TO MAKE SURE HUMANITY ENJOYS *SAFE PASSAGE* TO ITS *DESTINY*. THAT'S YOUR *LIFE'S MISSION*


YOUR DESTINY
..IS TO GO WITH THEM
I...?
WE HAVEN'T TIME TO DEBATE THIS DO YOU WANT TO GO?
OF COURSE BUT VERITYN HE'S STILL -
WHERE? SKEWED THROUGH TIME? MAYBE AND ONCE THE SHOCK WEARS OFF AND THAT SINKS IN, I'LL CRY MYSELF SICK
-- BUT HE'S GONE, CAPRICIA --
--AND THAT DOESN'T CHANGE WHAT WE OWE THESE PEOPLE THEY'RE STILL OUR RESPONSIBILITY
SO IS VERITYN
DAMN IT
THE ONLY REASON HE CAME WITH US IS BECAUSE I CHOSE HIM. THE ONLY REASON WHEREVER HE IS -- IF HE'S EVEN STILL ALIVE
--THEN WE'LL FIND HIM. I PROMISE YOU THAT THE REST OF US WILL STAY SO WE CAN KEEP LOOKING FOR AS LONG AS IT TAKES.
NO YES
IF I GO, VERITYN
BUT IF I STAY, THEN..THEN IT WAS ALL FOR NOTHING..
I...
DON'T HAVE TO CHOOSE

I'LL GO
GAMMID? NO. YOU CAN'T--
WHAT'S THE ALTERNATIVE? SPENDING THE REST OF MY LIFE WATCHING YOU TORTURE YOURSELF OVER THIS? NO.
YOU'RE RIGHT. WE CAN'T LEAVE VERITYN BEHIND. BUT TUG IS RIGHT, TOO. SOMEONE SHOULD SHEPHERD HUMANITY...GO FIND ANSWERS TO ALL THE QUESTIONS THAT. THAT ARE. WHY NOT ME?
DON'T BE AN ASS.
WHAT, SUDDENLY IT'S YOUR TURN TO BE THE SHOWOFF?
AS HARD AS THIS MAY BE FOR YOU TO BELIEVE, THIS ISN'T ABOUT YOU, NOR IS IT ABOUT SHOWING YOU UP.
WE BOTH KNOW THIS IS FOR THE BEST.
AND DON'T PRETEND TO BE INDIGNANT. WE MAY BE BROTHERS, GALVAN, BUT WE HAVE NEVER BEEN FRIENDS, AND THE WAY YOU TREAT ME...
I DON'T THINK WE EVER WILL BE
IT'S TOO SOON. LOSING ANOTHER...
WE FUMBLE WITH GOODBYES AS BEST WE CAN.
ZEPHYRE SEEMS MORE UPSET THAN ANYONE.
THAN ANYONE.

EVERY MINUTE OF EVERY DAY IS A CHOICE
LEFT/RIGHT THINK/ACT KIND/CRUEL
IN THIS UNIVERSE, THERE ARE FORCES BEYOND ALL COMPREHENSION BEARING RELENTLESSLY UPON US, TRYING TO STEER US OR SHAPE US, SOMETIMES SUCCEEDING...ON THE OUTSIDE.
I BELIEVE IN THOSE FORCES. I BELIEVE IN DESTINY, BUT I BELIEVE EVEN MORE IN FREE WILL. EVERYTHING WE DO, EVERY MOVE WE MAKE... ULTIMATELY, THAT'S WHAT DEFINES WHO WE ARE INSIDE...NOTHING ELSE.
YES, WE CAN BE GUIDED--AS WE ATLANTEANS HAVE PLEDGED TO GUIDE HUMANITY--
--BUT WHEREVER WE ARE, WHOEVER WE ARE, WE MEET OUR ULTIMATE FATE BECAUSE AND ONLY BECAUSE OF THE DECISIONS WE HAVE MADE AND MUST LIVE WITH
THE VENGEANCE

AND THE REGRETTABLE.

THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY NOT TO REGRET MINE.
I HAVE TO FIND VERITYN...
...BUT HOW? HE COULD BE ANY-WHERE IN TIME... BUT WHERE?
...
ATLANTIS. ?

The CrossGen Universe created by Mark Alessi & Gina M. Villa

Mark WAID
WRITER

Steve EPTING
PENCILER

Rick MAGYAR
INKER

Frank D'ARMATA
COLORIST

Dave LANPHEAR
LETTERER

Mark Alessi
Publisher & CEO

Gina M. Villa
Chief Operating Officer

Michael A. Beattie
Chief Financial Officer

Tony Panaccio
Vice President
Product Development

Brandon Peterson
Vice President
Production Control

Chris Oarr
Director of
Marketing & Sales

James Breitbeil
Director of
Marketing &
Distribution

Ian M. Feller
Director of Corporate
Communications

Barbara Kesel
Head Writer

Bart Sears
Art Director

Pam Davies
Production Director

Sylvia Bretz
Janet Bechtle
Production Assistants

Dave Lanphear
Design Director

Troy Peteri
Design Assistant

Michelle Pugliese
Freelance Coordinator

CROSSGEN
COMICS
11
MAR
$2.95
$4.75 CAN
www.crossgen.com
Mark Waid
Andy Smith
Mark Farmer
Jeromy Cox

THE STORY THUS FAR...

THEY WERE THE ATLANTEANS,

a peaceful civilization of artists and philosophers who used their phenomenal mental and physical skills to build an island utopia. They had but one responsibility: to guide and shepherd Earth's newborn race of *homo sapiens* towards a grand and glorious destiny. But when a mysterious cataclysm plunged Atlantis and its people beneath the waves, six – and only six – were awakened by a nameless stranger one thousand centuries later to find their utopia forgotten and in ruins, their brothers and sisters caught in an unshakeable slumber...and the human race gone, having vanished centuries ago in the Transition, a passage to a higher plane of existence.

Recently, the surviving Atlanteans were ambushed by agents of a bizarre alien threat known only as the Negation. Their attack opened a rift in spacetime, hurtling two of Capricia's allies into the distant past with no apparent means of returning.....

The mental and physical abilities of the Atlanteans are identical in nature but not in application. Capricia and her teammates have each channeled their abilities into different skills:

CAPRICIA
Shapeshifter and empath

TUG
Telekinetic strongman

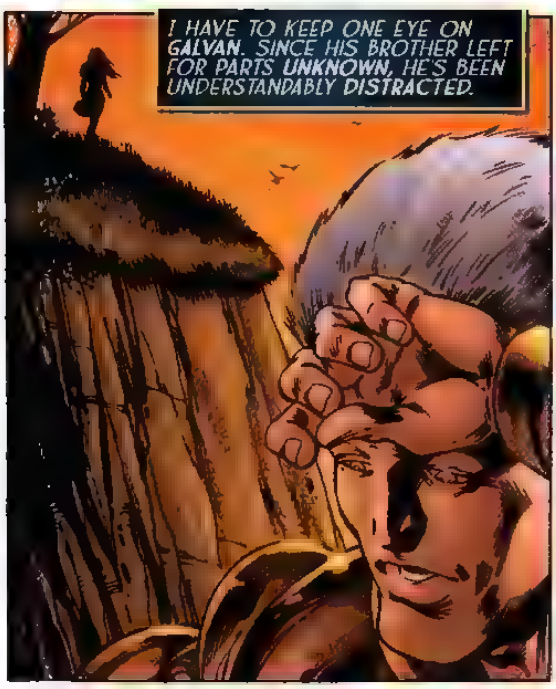
ZEPHYRE
Hypermetabolic intellectual

GALVAN
Manipulator of the electromagnetic spectrum

VERITYN
Seer of all truths

Crux™ Vol. 1, Issue 11 MARCH 2002 FIRST PRINTING Published by CrossGeneration Comics, Inc. Office of publication: 4023 Tampa Road, Suite 2400, Oldsmar, Florida 34677. **CrossGen®, CrossGen Comics®, CrossGeneration®,** and **CrossGeneration Comics®** are registered trademarks of CrossGeneration Comics, Inc. **Crux™, the CrossGen sigil™,** and all prominent characters are ™ and © 2002 CrossGeneration Comics, Inc. All rights reserved. The entire contents of this book are ™ and © 2002 CrossGeneration Comics, Inc. The stories, incidents, and characters in this publication are fictional. Any similarities to persons living or dead are purely coincidental. With the exception of artwork used for review purposes, none of the contents of this book may be reproduced in any form without the express written consent of CrossGeneration Comics, Inc. PRINTED IN CANADA

TIME IS A CIRCLE.
MAYBE NOT IN REALITY...BUT WITHIN THE CONFINES OF THIS GENERATOR, CERTAINLY.
THE SUPERCOLLIDER THAT SUPPLIES EARTH WITH ITS GRAVELECTRIC POWER CONTAINS FASTER-THAN-LIGHT TACHYONS...AND AS WE'VE SEEN, THAT TACHYON ENERGY TURNS THE TIMESTREAM INTO A WHIRLPOOL, PULLING IN ALL THOSE IT BRUSHES AGAINST...
...WHICH MEANS WE NEED TO FINISH REPAIRING THE COLLIDER WITHOUT LETTING THAT ENERGY TOUCH US.


I HAVE TO KEEP ONE EYE ON GALVAN. SINCE HIS BROTHER LEFT FOR PARTS UNKNOWN, HE'S BEEN UNDERSTANDABLY DISTRACTED.

THE OTHER EYE I KEEP ON THE UNCONSCIOUS PRISONERS WHO RUPTURED THE COLLIDER IN THE FIRST PLACE. BECAUSE OF THEM, VERITYN AND THE STRANGER WERE CAUGHT IN A WAVE OF CHRONAL ENERGY THAT SENT THEM...

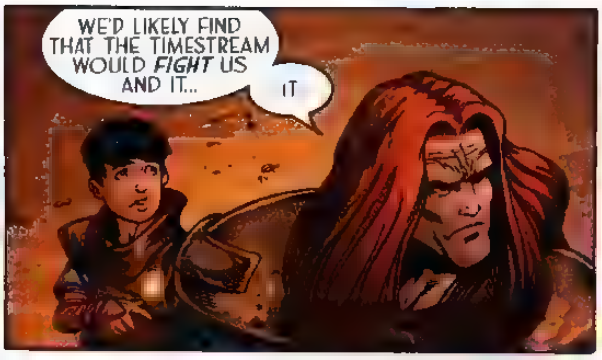
WHERE?
HOME
WE'RE HOME!
EVERYTHING'S THE WAY IT'S SUPPOSED TO
WAIT! WHAT'S THE DATE? WHEN IS THIS?
NEVER MIND! DANIK, C'MON!
VERITYN, HAVE A CARE. WE ARE ON VERY TENUOUS GROUND HERE
Uh huh HURRY!
TO WHERE?
TO THE STASIS CHAMBER! THAT'S WHERE YOU FOUND US, RIGHT? WHERE THEY PUT US AND THE OTHERS WHO STAYED BEHIND IN THE TRANSITION?
MAYBEMAYBEMAYBE

YES! PERFECT! IF THEY'RE STILL BUILDING IT, WE'RE JUST IN TIME!
WE CAN WARN EVERYBODY! WE CAN TELL THEM WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN TO US AND HOW IT ALL GOES WRONG AND WE CAN SAVE EVERYBODY AND WE--
--DANIK, WE CAN CHANGE THE FUTURE!
NO
WHAT?

YOU'RE MENTAL! THIS IS A GIFT! WE GET TO FIX SOMETHING HORRIBLE!
DESTINY IS NOT SOMETHING TO BE ALTERED ON A WHIM, VERITYN
A WHIM? A WHIM? THIS ISN'T CHANGING HISTORY TO GET A BETTER BIRTHDAY PRESENT! IT'S --
I'M DISAPPOINTED IN YOU
DISAPPOINTED?
THERE IS A BIGGER PICTURE TO CONSIDER. A DESIGN FOR THE COSMOS. IF YOU'LL REMEMBER, NOT TOO LONG AGO, I IN FACT GAVE YOU A GLIMPSE OF IT.
YOU WOULD DO WELL TO MAINTAIN SOME PERSPECTIVE ON THE WHOLE OF THINGS
I DON'T CARE ABOUT PERSPECTIVE! ARE YOU INSANE? I KNOW WHAT HAPPENS NEXT! THE TRANSITION COMES...SOMEHOW, IT SINKS ATLANTIS...SOMEHOW, IT CHANGES YOU INTO A REDHEADED JERK...
WITH INSIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES YOU CANNOT EVEN BEGIN TO FATHOM
I DON'T CARE
WE FIX. THIS
AND WHAT BECOMES OF US, THEN? WE MUST FIND A WAY BACK TO OUR OWN TIME, VERITYN
PERHAPS YOU SHOULD PUT YOUR PASSION INTO THAT
THAT? THAT'S THE EASY PART! I CAN SEE THROUGH TIME, REMEMBER?
WE LEFT A TRAIL. THAT ENERGY THAT SENT US HERE? VISIBLE TO ME. IT LOOKS LIKE THE END OF A ROPE FLAILING AROUND
WE SPOT IT WITH MY POWER, YOU GRAB T WITH YOURS, AND IT SNAPS US BACK LIKE ELASTIC
THEN YOU CAN SEE WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE

NO
"NO"?
WILL YOU JUST TAKE YOUR STUPID NOSE OUT OF YOUR STUPID PERSONAL *GUIDEBOOK* AND LOOK *AROUND*?
LOOK! PEOPLE *LAUGH* HERE! PEOPLE *CRY!* PEOPLE *MOVE* AND THEY *BREATHE* AND THEY GET TO *LIVE!*
YOU WERE *ONE* OF THEM! THESE PEOPLE ARE *YOUR FRIENDS!* AND UNLESS WE MAKE A *DIFFERENCE,* THEY'LL SLEEP *FOREVER!*
FOR-EV-ER. WHAT DON'T YOU *GET* ABOUT THAT?
THAT IF WE *HALT* THE *TRANSITION,* THOUSANDS *MORE* WILL BE DENIED A SPIRITUAL ASCENSION THAT -- AND YOU CAN *SEE* WHEN I LIE AND YOU KNOW THAT I AM *NOT* --
-- THAT CAN, HAS, AND *WILL* MAKE THE ENTIRE *UNIVERSE* A *BETTER PLACE.*
I HAVE NO *INTEREST* IN *CONDEMNING* THOSE WHO STAYED *BEHIND,* VERITYN --
-- BUT TAKING *ACTION* WILL UNDO A FAR GREATER *GOOD* A *FAR* GREATER ONE

NOR IS IT AS *SIMPLE* AS YOU SUGGEST CONSIDER THIS
THE ANOMALIES IN THE TIMESTREAM SURROUNDING AUSTRALIA WERE *UNIQUE* AND *LOCALIZED*.
THEY WERE *INFINITESIMAL* COMPARED TO WHAT YOU PROPOSE.
ALTERING THE OUTCOME OF *100,000 YEARS* IS STAGGERINGLY *DIFFERENT* AND STAGGERINGLY *DIFFICULT*. RIVERS DO NOT SIMPLY CHANGE *COURSE* WITHOUT AN *IMMENSE* DEAL OF *RESISTANCE*.


WE'D LIKELY FIND THAT THE TIMESTREAM WOULD *FIGHT* US AND IT...
IT

SO MUCH TO *CONSIDER*. I'M WORRIED THAT I'M OVERLOOKING SOMETHING
IS IT *SHOES*? YOU DIDN'T PACK ENOUGH *SHOES*.
THE *TRANSITION* ISN'T A *LAUGHING MATTER*, CAPRICIA
WELL, NO *WONDER* YOU'RE SO INVESTED IN IT, THEN. HEY, WHEN YOU'RE ALL *ENLIGHTENED* AND EVERYTHING, DOES THAT COME WITH A SENSE OF *HUMOR*?
JOKE, DANIK. I'M *JOKING*

YOU'RE STILL NOT CONVINCED I'M *GOING*.
I'M THINKING YOU'LL COME TO YOUR *SENSES*, YES. THE FUTURE IS *HERE*, DANIK, ON *EARTH* -- NOT IN PLAYING SOME COSMIC *LOTTERY* BY CREATING SOME SORT OF *GROUPMIND* IN THE *SKY*.
DON'T BE SO *IGN*--
"*IGNORANT*"? YOU WERE ABOUT TO CALL ME *IGNORANT*? I PUT UP WITH *THIS* FROM *YOU*?
AND I WOULD HAVE BEEN *WRONG*. I AM... I'M

WHAT? *SORRY*? YOU DON'T HAVE TO *APOLOGIZE*, DANIK. I'M YOUR *FRIEND*.
YOUR *BEST* FRIEND, AND I JUST WANT THAT TO BE TRUE UNTIL WE'RE BOTH OLD AND *GRAY*.
HEH. *IO*?

SO THE TIMESTREAM *FIGHTS* US. BIG *DEAL*
YOU'RE POWERFUL ENOUGH TO FIGHT *BACK* AND FIGHT *THROUGH*, RIGHT?

WHAT?
Oh YES, YES, OF COURSE I AM BUT THAT'S NOT THE *POINT*. THE *POINT* IS, WE *MUST* RETURN TO WHERE *WE* BELONG THERE'S A *BIGGER PICTURE*--

YEAH! *YOU* DON'T GET TO BE A *GOD!*
WHY DO YOU HAVE TO BE SO *SELFISH?*
VERITYN, IT ISN'T ABOUT--

YOU DON'T CARE ABOUT ANYBODY BUT *YOU? FINE!* I'LL TELL PEOPLE! I'LL WARN 'EM!
I'M GONNA SAVE MY *MOM* AND MY *DAD*, AND YOU CAN'T *STOP* ME! YOU *HEAR* ME?

YOU CAN'T *STOP* ME!

--AND THAT SHOULD ABOUT DO IT. HANG ON. IT'S NOT COMPLETELY SEALED, CAPRICIA
BY DESIGN, GEROMI
WE'RE NOT FINISHED HERE
LEAVING SOME OF THE TEMPORAL ENERGY "LIVE" IS, ESSENTIALLY, OUR WAY OF LIGHTING A BEACON FOR VERITYN AND THE STRANGER
I CAN'T SWEAR IT'LL DO ANY GOOD, BUT MAYBE IT'LL ESTABLISH A LINK OR A TETHER OF SOME SORT-- SOME GUIDEPOST FOR THEM
EITHER WAY, WE'RE NOT ABANDONING VERITYN. GETTING HIM BACK IS OUR ONLY PRIORITY.
EVERYTHING ELSE, WE IGNORE FOR NOW

DAD! DON'T GO! MOM, MAKE HIM STAY!
WE GOTTA MAKE EVERYBODY STAY!
VERITYN, VERITYN, WHAT AREN'T YOU DRESSED FOR--
LISTEN TO ME!
THE TRANSITION, IT'S GONNA GO WRONG SOMEHOW AND WE'RE GONNA BE IN OUR STASIS CHAMBERS BUT WE WON'T BE SAFE WE'RE GONNA SINK ALL ATLANTIS IS GONNA SINK TO THE BOTTOM--
VERITYN
--LISTEN! TO THE BOTTOM OF THE OCEAN AND WE'LL BE ASLEEP FOR A HUNDRED THOUSAND YEARS AND WHEN I WAKE UP, MOM, YOU'LL STILL BE ASLEEP BECAUSE HE CAN'T WAKE YOU--
WHO CAN'T--?
--AND THEN ALL THESE MONSTERS COME AFTER ME AND CAPRICIA AND THE OTHERS AND THEY'RE CALLED THE NEGATION AND THEY CUT CAPRICIA IN TWO AND THEY KILL EVERYBODY LEFT ON EARTH AND WE'RE ALL ALONE AND--
--AND--
SHHH SHHH IT'S OKAY, VERITYN HUSH
--AND YOU AND DAD ARE GONE AND--
SWEETHEART. DARLING..
GO BACK TO BED.
YOU'RE HAVING A BAD DREAM

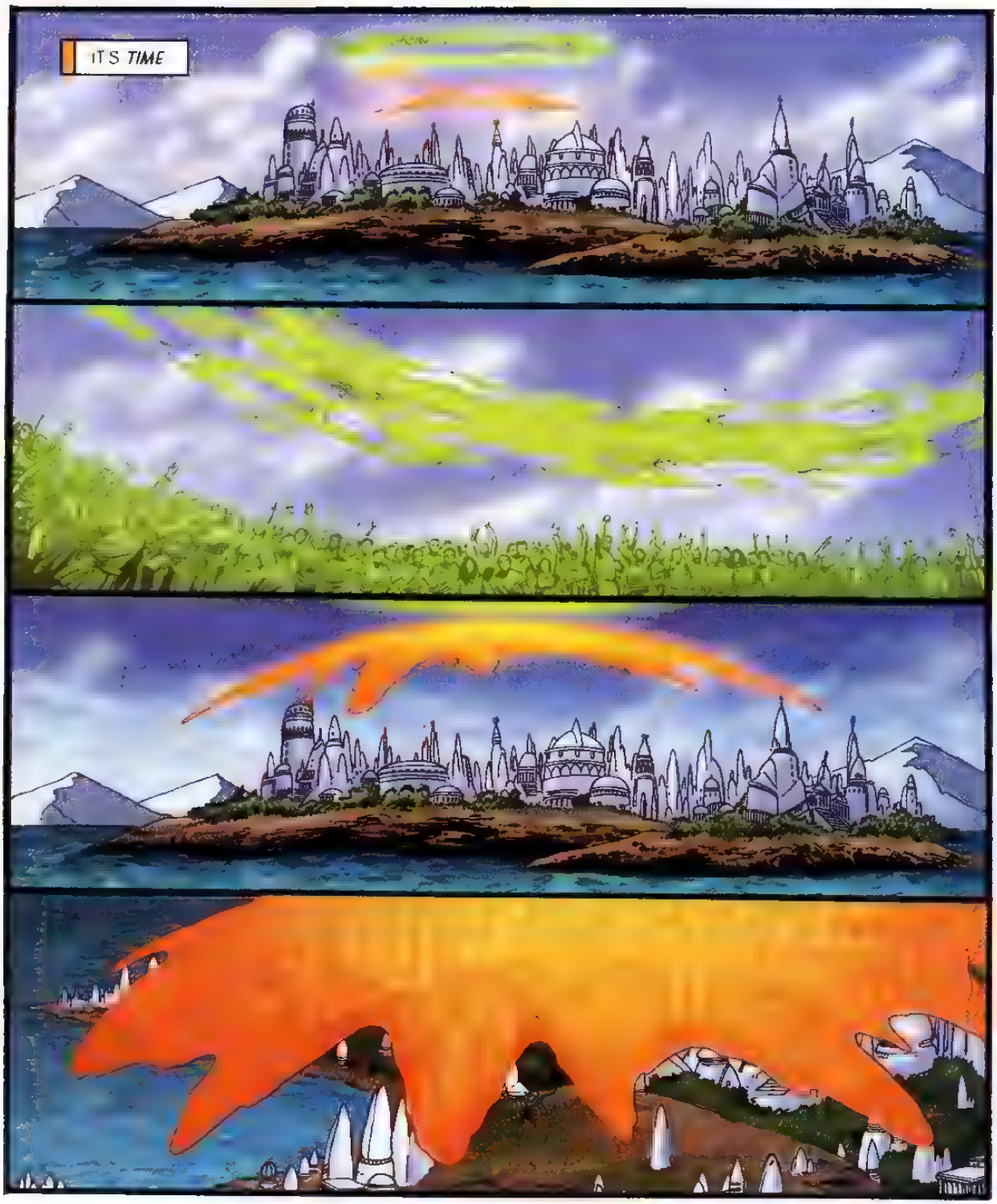
WAIT OKAY *WAIT* IF THEY SEE *TWO* OF US THAT'LL PROVE
NO
YES! YOU *CAN* FIX ALL THIS, RIGHT? YOU *CAN!*
IF I SO *DESIRED*, YES, IT'S LIKELY I COULD EVEN PROTECT US FROM ANY RESULTANT *PARADOXES*. HOWEVER
HOWEVER, IT IS NOT
VERITYN, IT IS NOT OUR *PLACE* TO INTERFERE WITH *HISTORY* !

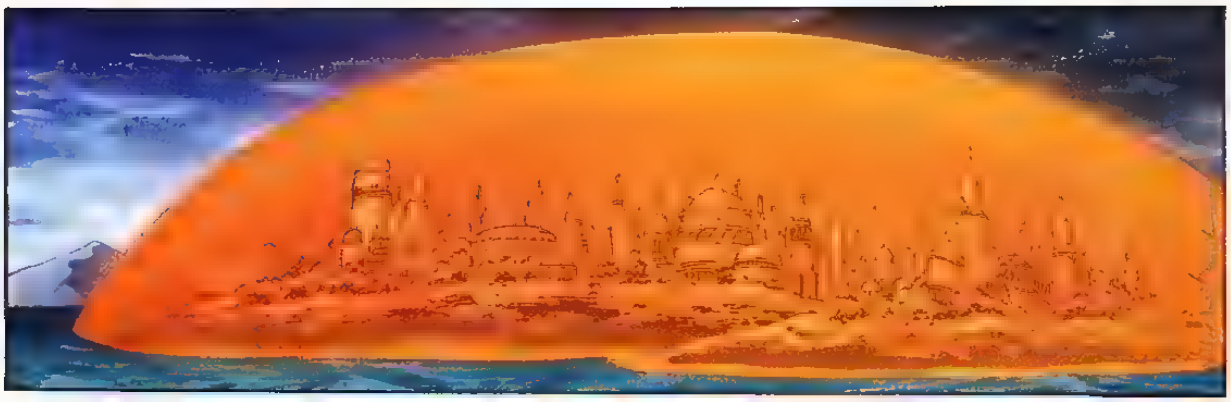
SAYS WHO? STOP IT! STOP THE TRANSITION! IF YOU DO, I PROMISE I'LL SHOW YOU THE WAY BACK THROUGH TIME WHENEVER YOU WANT TO GO! I PROMISE!
I WANT ZEPHYRE NOT TO MISS HER DAD! THAT LITTLE GIRL CAPRICIA SWORE WOULD BE OKAY, I WANT HER TO BE OKAY! I WANT THEM ALL BACK!
I WANT THEM BACK!
I WANT MY PARENTS BACK!
PLEASE
I CANNOT DO AS YOU ASK, VERITYN I WILL NOT STOP THE TRANSITION...
BUT I WILL SAVE ATLANTIS

LOOK BELOW
LOOK ABOVE
THE MOMENT OF TRANSITION IS *UPON* US, VERITYN BASED ON WHAT I KNOW *NOW*, THE CAUSE OF THE *CATASTROPHE* BECOMES *APPARENT*
WHEN WE PASSED THROUGH THE *DIMENSIONAL PORTAL* TO A NEW LEVEL OF *EXISTENCE*, WE OBVIOUSLY -- *STUPIDLY*-- *UNDERESTIMATED* THE RESULTING BACKLASH OF *ENERGY*
THAT'S WHAT SANK ATLANTIS. THAT'S WHAT CRIPPLED THE AUTO-AWAKE MECHANISMS OF THE *STASIS TUBES* AND PLUNGED THOSE WHO *STAYED* INTO *ENDLESS SLUMBER*.
AND THAT IS WHAT WE WILL NOW PUT *RIGHT*

THE TRANSITION AND ALL THAT SPRINGS FROM IT WILL STILL OCCUR... BUT AS IT UNFOLDS, I WILL CREATE A BARRIER, A SHIELD, TO SPARE ATLANTIS ITS DEVASTATING EFFECTS.
THERE IS NO NEED FOR ANYONE TO SUFFER FOR THE GOOD OF TOMORROW.
YOU'RE REALLY POWERFUL ENOUGH TO DO THIS
YOU YOURSELF COMPARED ME TO A GOD, VERITYN TIME WILL BE NO MORE AN OBSTACLE TO ME THAN GRAVITY.
HEY! WHAT'S WITH THE BLINDFOLD?
I CAN'T SEE WITH MY EYES OR MY MIND!
AT THE MOMENT OF TRANSITION, THERE IS A SIGHT BEYOND THE VEIL THAT YOU ARE NOT PREPARED TO SEE
I WOULDN'T LOOK! HONEST!
YOU WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO HELP BUT LOOK.
IT'S BEAUTIFUL

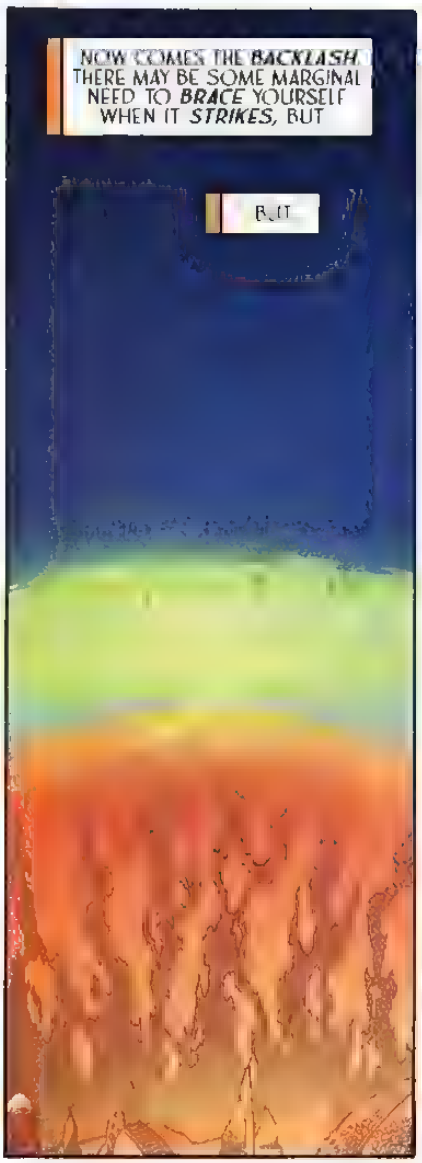
STAY BEHIND ME DON'T MOVE

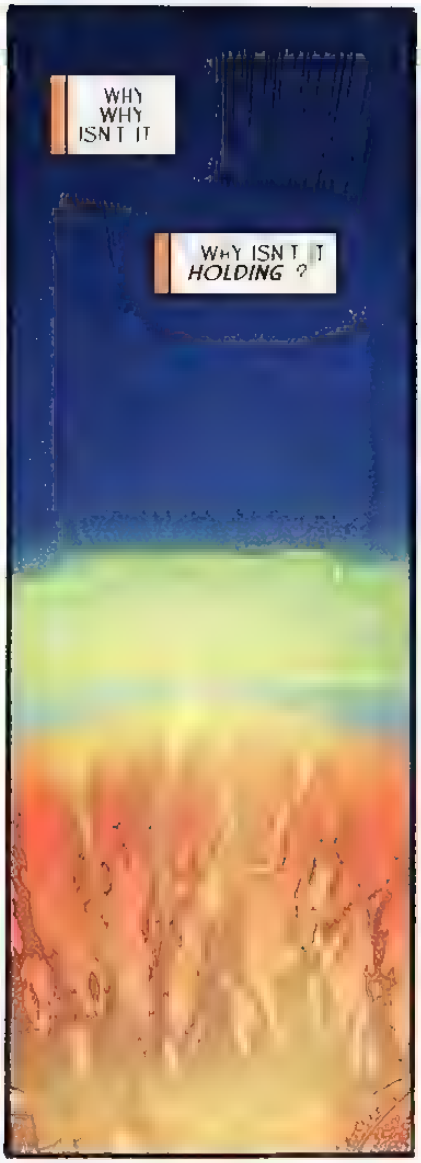

IT'S TIME



GO

IS IT WORKING? IS IT WORKING?
OF COURSE


NOW COMES THE BACKLASH. THERE MAY BE SOME MARGINAL NEED TO BRACE YOURSELF WHEN IT STRIKES, BUT
BUT


WHY WHY ISN'T IT
WHY ISN'T IT HOLDING ?

WHAT? DANIK, WHAT'S ALL THAT NOISE?
THIS -- THIS ISN'T HAPPENING! FOR A HUNDRED THOUSAND YEARS, I HAVE NEVER FAILED! I WILL NOT ALLOW IT!
I WILL NOT ALLOW IT!

I WILL NOT ALLOW--
CHOOM
DANIK, WHAT IS IT? WHAT'S GOING ON?
DANIK--!

YOU SAID YOU COULD DO *ANYTHING*.
YOU SAID YOU WERE A *GOD*
..
NO *YOU* DID
I MERELY *BELIEVED* IT
I DON'T
I DON'T WANT TO BE HERE ANY MORE
NOR DO I
THEN TAKE US OVER *THAT* WAY
I CAN STILL SEE OUR *LIFELINE*
AND THERE'S NO REASON TO STICK AROUND
NOT *NOW*.

IT'S FLARING
GREAT THE PATCH DIDN'T HOLD EVERYONE BE READY TO
HI
VERITYN!
WE WERE AFRAID YOU WERE GONE FOR GOOD! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT? ARE YOU--?
I'M OKAY I GOT LOST FOR A WHILE
BUT DA THE STRANGER LOOKED OUT FOR ME GOT ME H
GOT ME BACK

TERRIFIC. THERE'S NOTHING I ENJOY MORE THAN BEING INDEBTED TO AN INSUFFERABLE, ARROGANT *KNOW-IT-ALL* WHO WON'T EVEN TELL ME HIS *NAME*
TELL ME...DID YOU HELP VERITYN OUT OF *KINDNESS*, OR WAS THIS, *TOO*, PART OF SOME *GIANT UNIVERSAL TAPESTRY* THE LIKES OF WHICH WE PUNY *ATLANTEANS* CAN'T *POSSIBLY* COMPREHEND? IT *WAS*, WASN'T IT?
DON'T BE SO *IGN--*
IGNORANT"? YOU WERE ABOUT TO CALL ME *IGNORANT*? I PUT UP WITH *THIS* FROM
FROM
WHO WHO *ARE* YOU..?
WHO DO YOU *THINK*?
I'M *DANIK*, CAPRICIA
AND I'M SORRY

The CrossGen Universe created by Mark Alessi & Gina M. Villa

Mark **WAID**
WRITER

Andy **SMITH**
PENCILER

Mark **FARMER**
INKER

Jeromy **COX**
COLORIST

Dave **LANPHEAR**
LETTERER

COVER BY:
Andy Smith,
Rick Magyar &
Frank D'Armata

Mark Alessi
Publisher & CEO

Gina M. Villa
Chief Operating Officer

Michael A. Beattie
Chief Financial Officer

Tony Panaccio
Vice President
Product Development

Chris Oarr
Director of
Marketing & Sales

James Breitbeil
Director of
Marketing & Distribution

Ian M. Feller
Director of Corporate
Communications

Barbara Kesel
Head Writer

Bart Sears
Art Director

Pam Davies
Production Director

Sylvia Bretz
Janet Bechtle
Randy Martin
Production Assistants

Michelle Pugliese
Freelance Coordinator

Mark Waid • Steve Epting • Rick Magyar • Frank D'Armata

CROSSGEN

CROSSGEN comics

12 APR

$2.95
$4.75 CAN

www.crossgen.com

THE STORY THUS FAR...

THEY WERE THE ATLANTEANS,

a peaceful civilization of artists and philosophers who used their phenomenal mental and physical skills to build an island utopia. They had but one responsibility: to guide and shepherd Earth's newborn race of *homo sapiens* towards a grand and glorious destiny. But when a mysterious cataclysm plunged Atlantis and its people beneath the waves, six – and only six – were awakened by a nameless stranger one thousand centuries later to find their utopia forgotten and in ruins, their brothers and sisters caught in an unshakeable slumber...and the human race gone, having vanished centuries ago in the Transition, a passage to a higher plane of existence.

Following an ill-fated trip through time, shaken by his inability to prevent the destruction of Atlantis, the "mysterious stranger" has, in a moment of hubris, finally revealed himself to be Danik, once Capricia's closest friend. Together, the two of them have gone off to talk things out...leaving Capricia's other allies to extract information from a captured, helpless agent of the Negation through whatever means necessary...

The mental and physical abilities of the Atlanteans are identical in nature but not in application. Capricia and her teammates have each channeled their abilities into different skills:

CAPRICIA	DANIK	TUG	ZEPHYRE	GALVAN	VERITYN
Shapeshifter and empath	Keeper of the secrets	Telekinetic strongman	Hypermetabolic intellectual	Manipulator of the electromagnetic spectrum	Seer of all truths

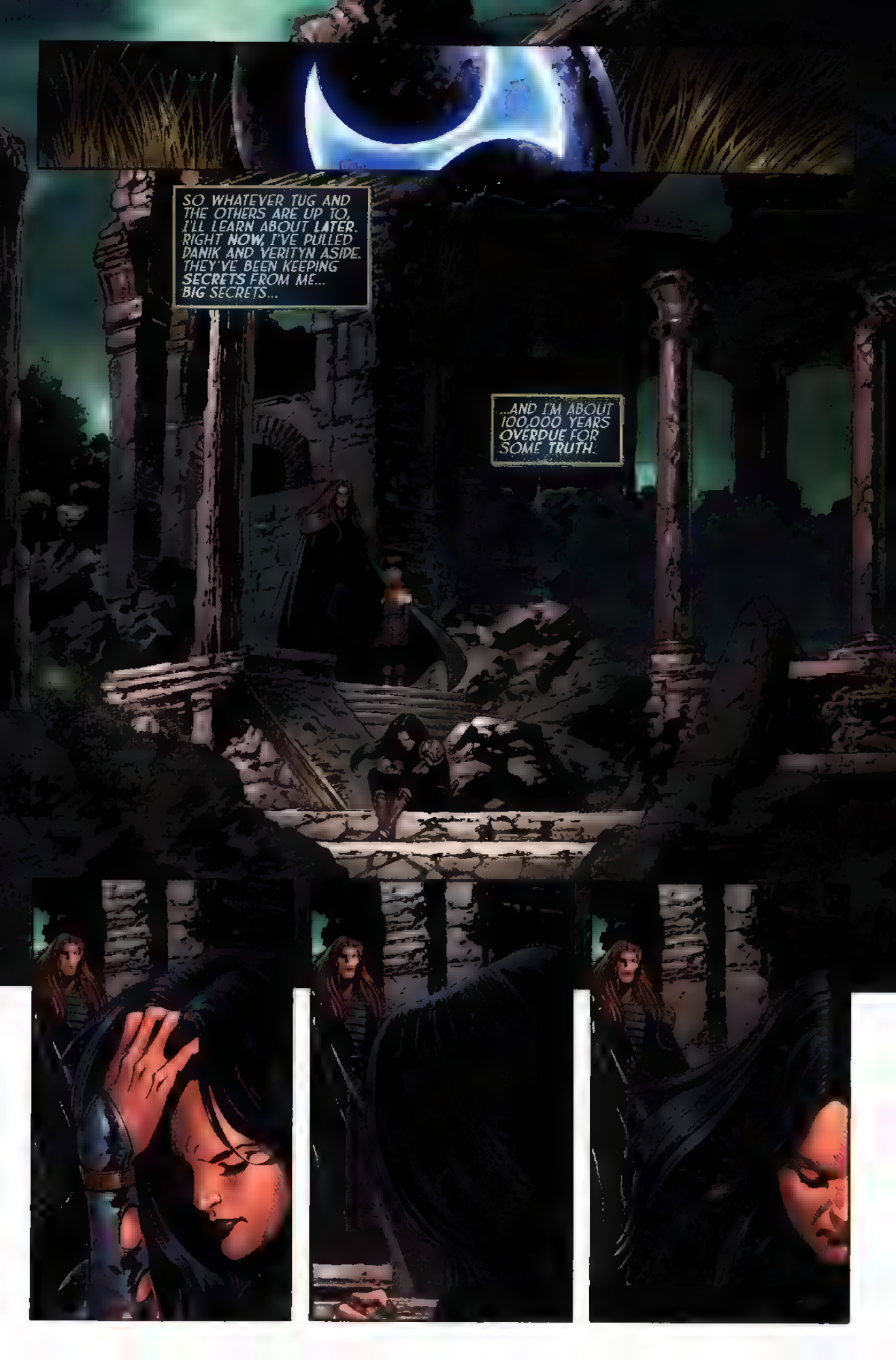
Crux™ Vol. 1, Issue 12, APRIL 2002 FIRST PRINTING Published by CrossGeneration Comics, Inc Office of publication 4023 Tampa Road, Suite 2400, Oldsmar, Florida 34677 CrossGen®, CrossGen Comics®, CrossGeneration®, CrossGeneration Comics®, and the CrossGen sigil® are registered trademarks of CrossGeneration Comics, Inc. Crux™ and all prominent characters are ™ and © 2002 CrossGeneration Comics Inc All rights reserved The entire contents of this book are ™ and © 2002 CrossGeneration Comics, Inc The stories, incidents, and characters in this publication are fictional Any similarities to persons living or dead are purely coincidental With the exception of artwork used for review purposes none of the contents of this book may be reproduced in any form without the express written consent of CrossGeneration Comics, Inc PRINTED IN CANADA

TKK

A FEW HOURS AGO, WE WERE FIGHTING FOR OUR LIVES AGAINST SOME SORT OF NEGATION [illegible] AND HIS DRONES.
NOW THAT WE'VE CAPTURED THEM, TUG AND THE OTHERS HAVE THEM UNDER CLOSE WATCH. THAT'S THE EASY PART. THE [illegible] PART...
...IS DECIDING JUST WHAT TO DO WITH THEM.

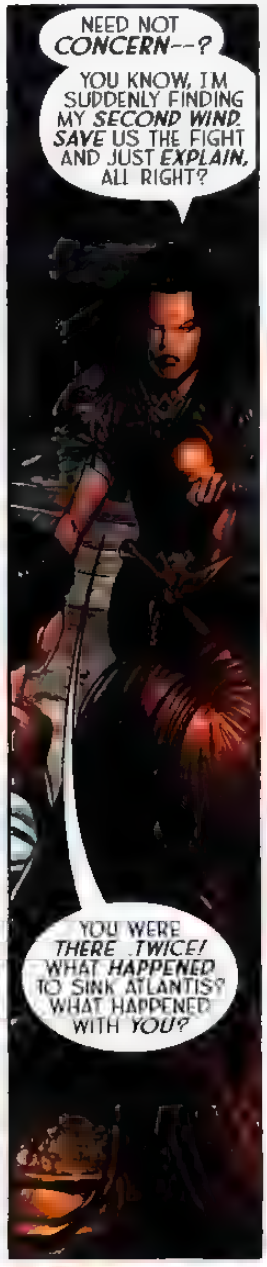
IF ANYONE HAS A SUGGESTION, NOW WOULD BE AN APPROPRIATE TIME TO OFFER IT.
THEY'RE ALL AWAKE NOW
WELL WHAT DOES ONE TRADITIONALLY DO WITH PRISONERS OF WAR?

I SUPPOSE WE *INTERROGATE* THEM. WHO *ARE* YOU? WHY ARE YOU *AFTER* US?
ANYTHING?
NOT *VERBALLY*. NOW THAT THINGS HAVE CALMED *DOWN* SOME, HOWEVER, I CAN TRY A *TELEPATHIC PROBE* TO LOOK DIRECTLY INTO HIS
MIND
HHHURRRRGH-
TUG, ARE YOU ALL *RIGHT*? WHAT DID YOU *SEE*?
I DON'T... I CAN'T... SEWAGE ALIEN *SEWAGE*
HOW DO WE *DO* THIS, THEN? WE'VE NEVER HELD *LIVE CAPTIVES* BEFORE -- AND WE CAN'T WASTE THIS *CHANCE*
WE KNOW NEXT TO *NOTHING* ABOUT THE NEGATION AND WE CAN *CHANGE* THAT
HOW MUCH INFORMATION DO YOU THINK THEY *HAVE*?
THAT'S NOT THE *QUESTION*
THE QUESTION *IS*.
HOW FAR ARE WE WILLING TO GO TO *GET* IT..?


SO WHATEVER TUG AND THE OTHERS ARE UP TO, I'LL LEARN ABOUT LATER. RIGHT NOW, I'VE PULLED DANIK AND VERITYN ASIDE. THEY'VE BEEN KEEPING SECRETS FROM ME... BIG SECRETS...
...AND I'M ABOUT 100,000 YEARS OVERDUE FOR SOME TRUTH.

I ASSUMED THAT, BY NOW, YOU'D BE *ATTACKING* ME
WAS THAT A *JOKE?* AREN'T *YOU* JUST FULL OF SURPRISES TODAY?
NO, *CLOCKING* YOU DIDN'T ACCOMPLISH ANYTHING *LAST* TIME NOT THAT IT ISN'T *TEMPTING*, BUT BY NOW I THINK I'M JUST TOO *TIRED* TO GO THROUGH THAT AGAIN.
VERITYN -- YOU *KNEW* THIS, DIDN'T YOU? IF HE REALLY IS *DANIK*, WHY IN *CREATION* DID YOU *NOT TELL US?*

BECAUSE WE HAD A *PACT*. I *BARGAINED* FOR THE BOY'S *SILENCE*. WE MADE AN *EXCHANGE* THAT NEED NOT *CONCERN* YOU.


NEED NOT *CONCERN*--?
YOU KNOW, I'M SUDDENLY FINDING MY *SECOND WIND*. *SAVE* US THE FIGHT AND JUST *EXPLAIN*, ALL RIGHT?
YOU WERE *THERE*. *TWICE!* WHAT *HAPPENED* TO SINK ATLANTIS? WHAT HAPPENED WITH *YOU?*

YEAH, YEAH SEND THE *KID* AWAY
AND IT'S JUST ABOUT TO GET REALLY *GOOD*

VERY WELL
THIS IS WHAT YOU *MISSED*...

STILL WITH ME? GOOD
I'VE HAD A LITTLE WHILE NOW TO PROBE MORE CAREFULLY. JUST DEEP ENOUGH TO TELEPATHICALLY TRANSLATE THE LANGUAGE...
SO IT'S TIME THE TWO OF US HAD A LITTLE TALK.
THE NEGATION HAS BEEN PLAGUING US FROM, LITERALLY, THE MOMENT WE AWOKE. IT'S IMPERATIVE THAT WE LEARN SOMETHING ABOUT YOU SO WE CAN PUT A STOP TO THAT NONSENSE.
AND IF THAT MEANS I HAVE TO...PROVOKE A LITTLE CONVERSATION, SO BE IT
FUNNY. I'M NOT SURE I COULD GO VERY FAR ALONG THOSE LINES IF IT WERE JUST ME WHOSE LIFE WAS AT STAKE. EVEN JUST ME AND MY FRIENDS.
BUT IT'S NOT ABOUT SIX PEOPLE
IT'S ABOUT THOUSANDS.
EVERYONE SLEEPING IN ATLANTIS IS DEPENDING ON US TO FIND A WAY TO RESURRECT THEM. AND THE MOMENT THE NEGATION SUCCEEDS IN TAKING US OUT, OUR WHOLE RACE FACES EXTINCTION.
WHEN I LOOK AT IT THAT WAY, TO BE HONEST, IT MAKES IT A LITTLE EASIER FOR ME TO SET NEW BOUNDARIES.
SO PERHAPS YOU SHOULD TELL ME A LITTLE MORE ABOUT WHAT WE'RE UP AGAINST
NEW BOUNDARIES DO I LIKE THE SOUND OF THAT?
LET'S SEE WHERE HE'S GOING

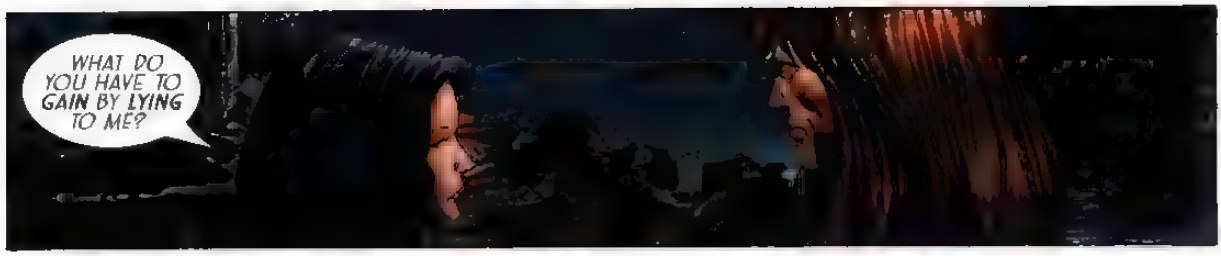
NICE *ARMOR*. GOOD *FIT*. SEEMS A LITTLE *LOOSE* IN PLACES, THOUGH
LET ME SEE IF I CAN TIGHTEN THAT *UP* FOR YOU A LITTLE BIT
GGGNNNH!
KNGH!
SEE, *TELEKINETICS* YOU DON'T WANT TO BE JERKING AROUND *TALK*
NOTHING? DO YOU HAVE ANY *CLUE* HOW SICK TO *DEATH* I AM OF *FIGHTING?* I'LL BE *FRANK*. IT DOESN'T COME *NATURALLY*
I KNOW. BIG GUY LIKE *ME*... STILL, I WAS ALWAYS THE *BRAINY* ONE. NOT INCLINED TO SOLVE MY PROBLEMS WITH *DESTRUCTIVE ENERGY*

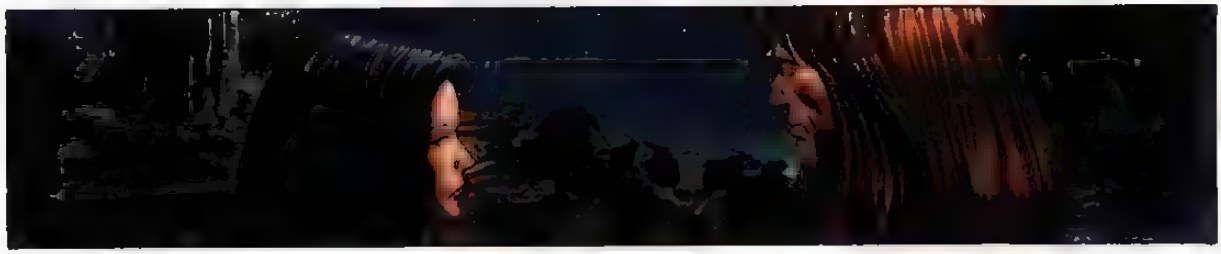
NO, I WAS, IN FACT, A *BUILDER*. AN *ARCHITECT*.
AND, AS SUCH, I KNOW ALL ABOUT THINGS LIKE oh...*STRESS POINTS*
IN FACT, I USED TK ALL THE TIME IN MY JOB
I'D MENTALLY PROBE AROUND DEEP INSIDE THE *SKELETONS* OF MY PROJECTS
TO SEE HOW MUCH FORCE IT WOULD TAKE TO *FRACTURE* THEM
AAAAIIIEEE!
KRAK
KRAK

AND BECAUSE WE UNDERESTIMATED THE BACKLASH OF *ENERGY* ATLANTIS *SANK*, ITS SURVIVAL MECHANISMS *CRIPPLED*..
INCLUDING THE *AUTO-AWAKE* CHAMBERS THAT *HOUSED* YOU.
THAT'S WHY YOU *SLEPT* FOR A *THOUSAND CENTURIES* UNTIL I *REVIVED* YOU
AND *YOU*?
WHAT HAPPENED DURING ALL THAT TIME TO CHANGE YOU INTO..INTO *THIS*?

I CAN'T TELL YOU!
BUT YOU MUST BELIEVE ME, CAPRICIA. ALL OF THIS. ALL OF THE SECRETS AND SUBTERFUGE...
...IT SERVES A GREATER GOOD A LARGER PURPOSE THAT, IN TIME, WILL BECOME EVIDENT TO YOU.

SAYS YOU. YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND HOW HARD ANY OF THIS IS TO SWALLOW... HOW RADICAL A MINDJOB THIS IS. BECAUSE YOU HAVE A HUNDRED THOUSAND YEARS OF CHANGE BEHIND YOU!
FROM MY POINT OF VIEW, WE WERE BEST FRIENDS THREE WEEKS AGO, AND NOW, SUDDENLY, THIS IS YOU. I'M SUPPOSED TO TAKE YOU AT YOUR WORD WHEN I HARDLY RECOGNIZE YOU?
WHY WOULD I BELIEVE ANYTHING YOU SAY? BECAUSE WE WERE FRIENDS?
BECAUSE WE ARE FRIENDS.
BECAUSE YOU YOURSELF ONCE TAUGHT ME THE ONE QUESTION THAT, WHEN ASKED, SEPARATES THE TRUTH-TELLERS FROM THE LIARS, CAPRICIA.
DO YOU REMEMBER IT?


WHAT DO YOU HAVE TO GAIN BY LYING TO ME?



NOTHING YOU GAIN NOTHING.
FINE. LET'S ASSUME YOU ARE TELLING THE TRUTH. THAT DOESN'T MAKE US FRIENDS.
BESIDES, THERE'S SOMETHING YOU'RE STILL NOT TELLING ME. I'M AN EMPATH, REMEMBER? I CAN SENSE THIS, AND I KNOW KNEW YOU.

WHAT ARE YOU HOLDING BACK, DANIK?
WHAT ARE YOU NOT TELLING ME?
YOU WANT TO PROVE YOU'RE MY FRIEND, AND THIS IS HOW YOU DO IT?

TELL ME!

DESERV
TO KNOW

TUG--!
GALVAN, DON'T *SECOND-GUESS* HIM. HE'S MAKING THIS LOOK EASIER FOR HIM THAN IT *IS*.
THERE'S A *REASON* INFORMATION HAS *VALUE*
BECAUSE IT *COSTS*
HAVE YOU EVER KNOWN TUG TO BE *IMPULSIVE* OR *VOLATILE*? NO. HE'S PROBABLY THE MOST *DELIBERATE MAN* I HAVE EVER *MET*
WE'RE NOT *WARRIORS*, BUT WE ARE *IN* A *WAR*. AS FAR AS I'M CONCERNED, THAT GIVES TUG SOME *LATITUDE*
LOOK. I KNOW THIS SOUNDS *ABSURD* COMING FROM THE GUY WITH THE *TEMPER*, BUT... STOOPING TO THE ENEMY'S *LEVEL*
AN ENEMY THAT *ALREADY* NEARLY KILLED *VERITYN* WITHOUT *ONE SHRED* OF REMORSE. IF YOU CAN THINK OF A MORE EFFECTIVE WAY TO PROTECT US *AND* ALL OF ATLANTIS, STEP *IN*. OTHERWISE--
SNAP
--STEP *BACK*
AAAAAAA!
YOU *AMUSE* ME
REALLY
I DO YOU A *FAVOR*. BY STAYING *SILENT* YOU ASK QUESTIONS THE ANSWERS TO WHICH WOULD... DRIVE YOU *INSANE*.
WITH *FEAR*.

I THREATEN YOU?
IN THE NEGATION HIERARCHY, I AM NOTHING. I AM LESS THAN THE WOOD-SPLINTER THAT JABS THE SKIN
AND ONLY MY OWN OVERCONFIDENCE KEPT ME FROM SLAUGHTERING YOU
ONLY DUMB LUCK SAVED YOU FROM BEING DESTROYED BY A SPLINTER.
AND I AM BACKED BY A FOREST
YES, YOU AMUSE ME BECAUSE YOU SIMPLY CANNOT IMAGINE WHAT THE NEGATION IS...
...AND HOW MANY WAYS IT KNOWS TO KILL YOU ALL...
...STARTING, IF THERE IS ANY JUSTICE IN YOUR UNIVERSE AT ALL..
.WITH THAT ANNOYING BRAT CALLED VERITYN
TUG, NO

SHOOK
THAT'S WHAT I THINK OF YOUR *FOREST*, SPLINTER
TALK
YOU HONESTLY HAVE *NO IDEA* WHAT YOU'RE *PLAYING* AT AND THAT'S WHAT YOU'RE *DOING*. *PLAYING*. THIS IS A *GAME*.
A GAME WITH A *FRIGHTENED LITTLE BOY* WHO DOESN'T KNOW THE *REAL RULES*.
DON'T TALK TO ME ABOUT RULES. I'M *BREAKING* SOME? I DON'T *CARE*. IF THERE'S A *PRICE* FOR THAT, I'LL PAY IT *LATER*.
TALK.

VERITYN? WHAT ARE YOU DOING *HERE?*
USED TO BE MY ROOM
THAT'S WHERE A KID'S *SUPPOSED* TO GO WHEN HE'S GONNA BE *PUNISHED*, RIGHT?
THERE'S NO
VERITYN I'M NOT GOING TO *PUNISH* YOU I *DO* THINK WE NEED TO *TALK*, THOUGH
WHAT *DID* DANIK GIVE YOU IN EXCHANGE FOR YOUR *SILENCE*, HONEY?
A VISION
ALL THAT STUFF HE *TOLD* YOU ABOUT THERE BEING *MORE IMPORTANT STUFF* WE CAN'T EVEN *CONSIDER*? HE *MEANS* IT
EVERYTHING HE TOLD YOU IS *TRUE*. THAT'S WHAT HE *GAVE* ME, 'PRICIA
HE GAVE ME A LOOK THROUGH *HIS EYES*.
JUST A *GLIMPSE*. JUST A *TINY PEEK*. BUT ENOUGH TO KNOW THAT THERE REALLY, TRULY *IS* A *BIGGER PICTURE*

AND THAT EXPLAINS THAT. THAT'S WHY VERITYN SEEMS TO HAVE CHANGED SO MUCH SINCE WE AWOKE. HOW CAN SOMETHING LIKE THAT NOT FORCE HIM TO GROW UP A LITTLE?
MAYBE HIS "GLIMPSE" WAS SUPPOSED TO BE A GIFT, BUT IT'S ALSO A BURDEN...
...AND A BURDEN LIKE THAT IS TOUGH FOR ANYONE TO SHOULDER NO MATTER HOW OLD THEY ARE.
YEP 'COURSE, YOU KNOW WHAT I M TALKING ABOUT, THOUGH. YOU BEING SUCH A BIG PART OF IT AND ALL
WHAT?
HE DIDN T..?
YOU GUYS TALKED SO LONG, I THOUGHT FOR SURE HE D EXPLAIN ABOUT..
ABOUT WHAT?
I REALLY DIDN T SEE MUCH MYSELF NOTHING THAT MADE SENSE, NOT RIGHT NOW BUT CAPRICIA..
..I DON'T KNOW HOW, OR WHERE, OR WHEN . BUT SOMEDAY, YOU BECOME A HUGE PART OF THE MASTER PLAN
A HUGE PART
WHAT ARE YOU HOLDING BACK, DANIK?
WHY WHY WOULDN T HE TELL ME THAT?

CAUSE IT'S A BURDEN, I GUESS
WHY WOULD HE WANT TO PUT THAT ON YOU IF HE'S YOUR FRIEND?
WHY, INDEED

WELL
I THINK I HAVE ENOUGH DATA ON YOU NOW
I'M *DONE* HERE
HE'S *STANDING?* *HOW IS HE STANDING?!* HE--
CREDIT THE *ARMOR*, REALLY ITS *SERVOMOTORS* ARE DOING THE HARD WORK
Oh, I'M IN *PAIN*. I'LL GIVE YOU *THAT*. BUT IF YOU THINK I'LL STAND HERE AND WATCH YOU EXERCISE YOUR SAME *TORTURE-TACTICS* ON MY *MEN*
KCHUNK

SSSSKOW
-- THAT'S NOT REALLY LIKELY
?
PHASE-SHIFTING FIRST STEP IN BEING DRAWN HOME THROUGH THE PORTAL
BELIEVE ME, HOWEVER.. THIS IS A MOST TEMPORARY RETREAT
ZEPH, STOP HIM! HE'S GETTING AWAY!
NOW THAT I'VE SEEN FIRST-HAND WHAT YOU'RE CAPABLE OF, I WILL BE BACK.
UNTIL THEN, A WORD FOR TUG.
WHAT WAS THAT YOU WERE SAYING ABOUT PAYING THE PRICE FOR YOUR ACTIONS...?
IT'S TRUE YOU PLAY WITH FIRE, LITTLE MAN

YOU GET BURNED
AAAAAAAHHH!

DAMN IT
AAAH
AAAH
GALVAN, I HEARD A SCREAM! WHAT HAPPENED?
SO FAST IT HAPPENED SO FAST.
TUG? TUG, WHAT DID HE DO TO YOU?
TUG, LOOK AT ME!
I
I CAN'T.

The CrossGen Universe created by Mark Alessi & Gina M. Villa

Mark WAID
WRITER

Steve EPTING
PENCILER

Rick MAGYAR
INKER

Frank D'ARMATA
COLORIST

Dave LANPHEAR
LETTERER

Mark Alessi
PUBLISHER & CEO

Gina M. Villa
CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER

Michael A. Beattie
CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

Tony Panaccio
VICE PRESIDENT
PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT

Chris Oarr
DIRECTOR OF
SALES & MARKETING

James Breitbeil
DIRECTOR OF
MARKETING & DISTRIBUTION

Jan M. Feller
DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE
COMMUNICATIONS

Brandon Peterson
VICE PRESIDENT
SPECIAL PROJECTS

Barbara Kesel
HEAD WRITER

Bart Sears
ART DIRECTOR

Pam Davies
PRODUCTION DIRECTOR

Sylvia Bretz
PRODUCTION SUPERVISOR

Janet Bechtle
Randy Martin
PRODUCTION ASSISTANTS

Michelle Pugliese
FREELANCE
COORDINATOR

CROSSGEN COMICS
13
MAY
$2.95
$4.75 CAN
www.crossgen.com
CROSSGEN
Chuck Dixon
Steve Epting
Rick Magyar
Frank D'Armata

THE STORY THUS FAR...

THEY WERE THE ATLANTEANS,

a peaceful civilization of artists and philosophers who used their phenomenal mental and physical skills to build an island utopia. They had but one responsibility: to guide and shepherd Earth's newborn race of homo sapiens towards a grand and glorious destiny. But when a mysterious cataclysm plunged Atlantis and its people beneath the waves, six – and only six – were awakened by a nameless stranger one thousand centuries later to find their utopia forgotten and in ruins, their brothers and sisters caught in an unshakeable slumber...and the human race gone, having vanished centuries ago in the Transition, a passage to a higher plane of existence.

An attack by a hunter sent by the Negation has left Tug temporarily blinded. But Tug suffers more from memories of using his powers to torture vital information from the hunter. Also, Capricia must deal with the new knowledge that the mysterious and god-like stranger who has been helping them has been revealed to be Danik, her best friend from the days of bygone Atlantis.

The mental and physical abilities of the Atlanteans are identical in nature but not in application. Capricia and her teammates have each channeled their abilities into different skills:

CAPRICIA	DANIK	TUG	ZEPHYRE	GALVAN	VERITYN
Shapeshifter and empath	Keeper of the secrets	Telekinetic strongman	Hypermetabolic intellectual	Manipulator of the electromagnetic spectrum	Seer of all truths

Crux™ Vol. 1 Issue 13, MAY 2002. FIRST PRINTING. Published by CrossGeneration Comics, Inc. Office of publication: 4023 Tampa Road, Suite 2400, Oldsmar, Florida 34677
CrossGen®, CrossGen Comics®, CrossGeneration®, CrossGeneration Comics®, and the CrossGen sigil® are registered trademarks of CrossGeneration Comics, Inc. Crux™ and all prominent characters are ™ and © 2002 CrossGeneration Comics, Inc. All rights reserved. The entire contents of this book are ™ and © 2002 CrossGeneration Comics, Inc. The stories, incidents and characters in this publication are fictional. Any similarities to persons living or dead are purely coincidental. With the exception of artwork used for review purposes, none of the contents of this book may be reproduced in any form without the express written consent of CrossGeneration Comics, Inc. PRINTED IN CANADA.

I DREAMT ABOUT ATLANTIS
NOT THE PLACE WE KNOW
ATLANTIS FROM WAY BEFORE WE WERE BORN
I SAW MY ARMY MARCHING

THIS IS WHERE THE DREAM GETS KIND OF FUZZY
BUT I FELT

IT WAS A BATTLE
THE ENEMIES WEREN'T ATLANTEAN OR HUMAN
THEY WERE MONSTERS
THE BATTLE WENT ON UNTIL ONLY TWO WERE STILL FIGHTING

AND THAT'S WHERE IT ALWAYS ENDS
IT SEEMED FAMILIAR THINK IT MEANS ANYTH NG?
HOW OFTEN DO YOU DREAM THIS VERITYN?
A LOT SINCE WE GOT TO AUSTRALIA
AND IT'S GETTING CLEARER, TUG
WELL WHEN I DREAM IT'S USUALLY NUMBERS OR GIBBERISH
WHEN YOU DREAM IS ANOTHER STORY THERE MIGHT BE SOME TRUTH YOU'RE UNCOVERING
YOU COULD BE RIGHT SINCE THE LAST OF THE HUMANS WENT THROUGH THE GATEWAY THE DREAMS ARE STRONGER
KIND OF LIKE THEY WERE STATIC, Y KNOW?

SO
WHAT DO WE DO ABOUT IT?
LET'S LOOK FOR THE SOURCE
IT HAS TO BE CLOSE
YOU KNOW WHERE IT IS?
I HAVE AN IDEA
WE SHOULD TE CAPRICIA
I DON'T WANT TO TALK TO CAPRICIA RIGHT NOW, TUG
SHE'S GOT TOO MUCH TO THINK ABOUT NOW
CAPRICIA?
YES, ZEPHYRE?
WELL, I WAS JUST WONDERING I MEAN THE THING IS
YES, ZEPHYRE?
WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

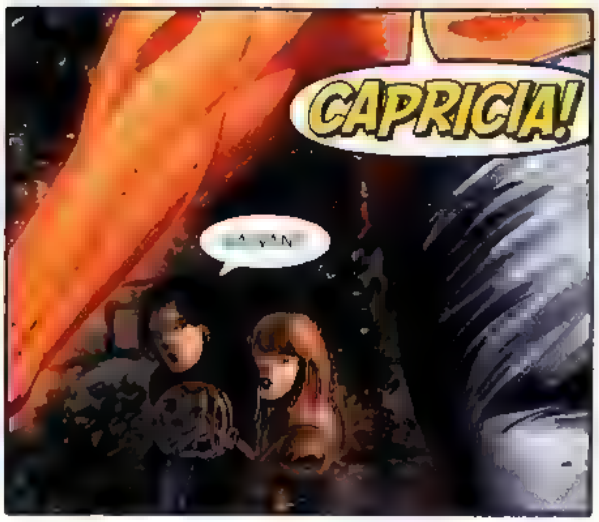
YOU MEAN NOW THAT ALL THE HUMANS WE'RE SWORN TO ENCOURAGE AND PROTECT HAVE GONE THROUGH TRANSITION?
YEAH LIKE THAT
WELL YOU COULD COME VISIT ME
MIGHT BE NICE TO SEE YOU GUYS IN PERSON AGAIN
JEROMI?
MM HM?
WE WERE TALKING
I KNOW WE'RE TALKING ABOUT
CAPRICIA AND I WERE TALKING
AND HERE I THOUGHT YOU LIKED HIM
DO BUT NOT ALL THE TIME
SOMETIMES HE DOESN'T KNOW WHEN TO BREAK THE CONNECTION

GAMMID!

SO HE TURNS OUT TO BE DANIK AND THEN JUST TAKES OFF?
HE *SAYS* HE'S DANIK ZEPHYRE HE *SEEMS* LIKE DANIK
BUT THERE'S *MORE* THERE THINGS HE'S *NOT* REVEALING

HE'S TOLD *VERITYN* SOME OF IT HE *HAD* TO CAN'T HIDE ANYTHING FROM THAT KID
APPARENTLY *I'M* SUPPOSED TO PLAY A BIG PART IN OUR FUTURE
DID DANIK SAY ANYTHING ABOUT *ME?*

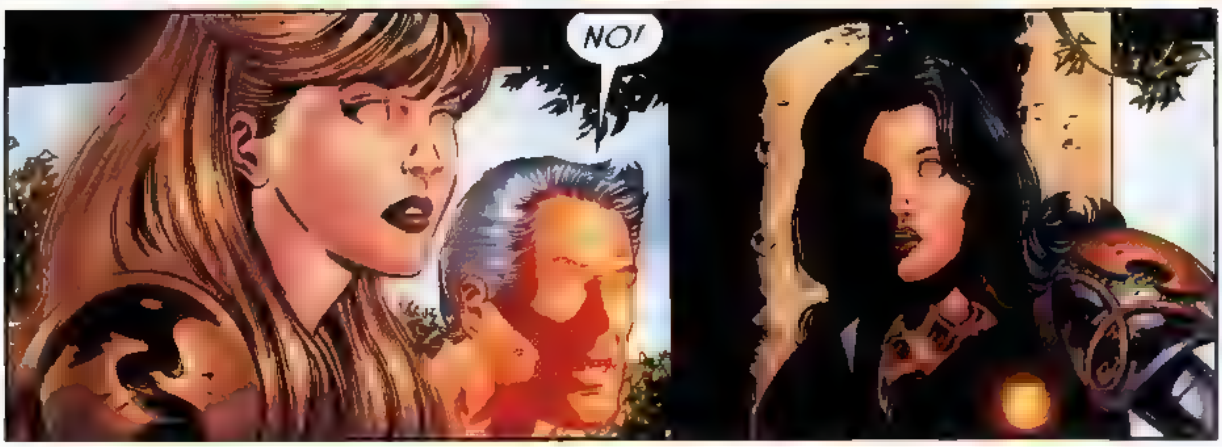
YOUR NAME DIDN'T COME UP
SO WHAT'S THEIR *FUTURE* ABOUT DANIK?
I HAVE *NO* IDEA BUT I CAN SAY THIS ABOUT


CAPRICIA!
AYAN

NOT MUCH CHOICE THAT'S WHAT BABYSITTING IS ABOUT
BABYSITTING?
WHAT ELSE WOULD YOU CALL IT?
UNTIL MY EYES RECOVER I NEED YOU LOOKING OUT FOR ME
Oh.
THAT'S RIGHT

SO, YOU THINK YOUR DREAMS ARE STRONGER BECAUSE WE'RE NEAR THEIR SOURCE, VERITYN?
IT MAKES SENSE SOMETHING'S HERE. SOME TRUTH
OR IT COULD BE NOTHING. ARE YOU SURE YOU WANTED TO TAG ALONG TUG?
SO HOW DO THINGS LOOK THROUGH MY EYES?
SHORTER
HA HA HA HA!
HONESTLY, I WAS A LITTLE DISORIENTING SEEING THROUGH THE PSYCHIC LINK WITH YOU AT FIRST
BUT I'M GETTING USED TO IT. HEY, I'M LUCKY I WAS ONLY BLINDED
THAT NEGATION CREEP NEARLY KILLED YOU
I HURT HIM. HE RETALIATED
THEN KILLED ALL OF HIS OWN HUNTING PARTY
THAT DOESN'T ERASE WHAT I DID
YOU HAD TO, TUG. HOW ELSE COULD WE HAVE FOUND OUT WHAT WE DID?
AND WHAT DID WE FIND OUT?
MY CAPACITY FOR CRUELTY?

GAMMID IS TRYING TO REACH ME BUT IT'S GARBLED
I SENSE HE'S IN DANGER, BUT IT'S UNCLEAR
YOUR TELEPATHIC CONNECTION AS TWINS IS *STRONGER* THAN I THOUGHT
I SHOULD *NEVER* HAVE LET HIM GO WITH THE HUMANS
IT WAS *HIS* DECISION, VAN
ESTABLISH *CONTACT* WITH HIM, GALVAN ZEPHYRE AND I WILL HELP
TRY


NO!

CLOSE PORTAL
DOES THIS MEAN
TRANSITION SALIE?

HERE, VERITY?
IT'S NOT THE SAME AS MY DREAM, BUT THE FEELINGS ARE STRONGER HERE
A MILLION TONS OF GLACIAL SCREE
WI
WHAT IF I CAN AIM YOU AT A NATURAL STRESS POINT?
I'LL TAKE ALL THE HELP I CAN
YOU CAN MOVE IT, RIGHT? THINK IT OUT OF THE WAY RIGHT?
IF YOUR DREAM HAPPENED IT WAS EONS AGO THE LANDSCAPE HAS CHANGED
IT HAPPENED, TUG I KNOW IT NOW
WHAT WE'RE LOOKING FOR IS BEHIND THAT
SEE IT?
A FAULT CREATED B POWDERED SHALE
IT D COME DOWN ON ITS OWN IN A FEW THOUSAND YEARS

BUT WHY WAIT?
YEAH
WHY WAIT?
YOU CAN DO IT TUG
YES!

SO, WHAT'D I MISS?
OR DO YOU WANT TO SHUT ME DOWN AGAIN?
WE HEARD FROM GAMMID
THAT'S GOOD NEWS, RIGHT?
IT SHOULD HAVE BEEN GEROM!
YOU HEARD HIM, GALVAN
WE HAVE TO DO IT
IT WAS GARBLED UNCLEAR
IT WAS CLEAR ENOUGH THEY'VE RUN INTO DANGER ON THE OTHER SIDE
SOMETHING THAT COULD COME BACK THROUGH THE PORTAL GAMMID SAID TO DESTROY THE PORTAL
WE CAN'T!
IT WOULD TRAP GAMMID OVER THERE FOREVER!

I DON'T WANT TO DO IT, GALVAN. BUT WE HAVE TO
GAMMID KNEW THE CHANCE HE TOOK
NO
NO!
CRACK!
THAT STUNG
CAPRICIA?
I'M ALL RIGHT, ZEPH

I JUST HAVE TO EXPLAIN A FEW THINGS TO OUR FRIEND
LIKE WHAT EXACTLY IT IS WE'RE DOING HERE
AND THE NATURE OF THE RISKS WE TAKE
I CAN'T LET YOU STRAND MY BROTHER!
STOP THIS!
ONE OF THEM IS GOING TO GET HURT!
ONE OF THEM IS GOING TO GET KILLED! PEOPLE WITH YOUR KIND OF FREAKY POWERS SHOULD BE MORE
CAREFUL!

NICE WORK, TUG
JUST RIGHT WOULD I LIE?
RIGHT
IT'S JUST A CAVE, huh?
IT'S MORE THAN THAT
IS THIS LIKE YOUR DREAM?
EXACTLY LIKE IT SOMETHING BUILT THIS PLACE
NOT ATLANTEANS
THIS METAL FEELS DIFFERENT AND THEY WERE TALLER
AND BIGGER

I WON'T LET YOU DESTROY GAMMID'S ONLY CHANCE!

WE DON'T *KNOW* IT'S HIS ONLY CHANCE! WE ONLY KNOW HE *WARNED* US!

PLEASE! STOP FIGHTING!

NOTHING WILL MAKE ME BETRAY MY BROTHER!

AND I WON'T LET ANYONE *ELSE* DO IT *EITHER!*

IT'S *NOT* BETRAYAL IF WE'RE DOING WHAT HE *WANTS,* GALVAN!

UH GUYS, I THINK YOU HAVE *OTHER* PROBLEMS

WE WAITED TOO LONG
IS THAT WHAT I THINK IT IS, CAPRICIA?
I'M AFRAID IT IS, ZEPH
A NEGATION FIELD
THIS IS BAD.
WE SENT GAMMID AND THE HUMANS
--STRAIGHT INTO THE ARMS OF OUR ENEMIES.

THIS IS VERY, VERY WEIRD

YOU *THINK* THIS IS A SHIP, VERITYN? I MEAN, IT'S *ENORMOUS*
WE'VE *SEEN* PROPULSION ENGINES AND CONTROL ROOMS AND LIFE SUPPORT SYSTEMS
THOSE CONDUITS DO THEY CARRY WATER OR FUEL OR
YOU'RE THE ENGINEER TUG. YOU TELL *ME*
NOT A *CLUE*
THE *POWER'S* STILL ON DOWN HERE
DON'T
WELL
THE *BIG*

IS THIS WHAT YOU SAW IN YOUR DREAMS?
THEY WERE ALIVE IN MY DREAMS ALIVE AND FIGHTING
AND I'LL TELL YOU SOMETHING CREEPIER...
THEY'RE STILL ALIVE

The CrossGen Universe created by Mark Alessi & Gina M. Villa

STORYTELLERS

Chuck **DIXON**
WRITER

Steve **EPTING**
PENCILER

Rick **MAGYAR**
INKER

Frank **D'ARMATA**
COLORIST

Dave **LANPHEAR**
LETTERERER

Mark Alessi
PUBLISHER & CEO

Gina M. Villa
CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER

Michael A. Beattie
CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

Tony Panaccio
VICE PRESIDENT
PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT

Chris Oarr
DIRECTOR OF
SALES & MARKETING

James Breitbell
DIRECTOR OF
MARKETING & DISTRIBUTION

Ian M. Feller
DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE
COMMUNICATIONS

Courtland Whited
MIS DIRECTOR

Gabo Mendoza
INTERNET SERVICES DIRECTOR

Charles Decker
DIRECTOR OF
PRODUCTION CONTROL

Brian M. Soltis
CONTROLLER

Brandon Peterson
VICE PRESIDENT
SPECIAL PROJECTS

Barbara Kesel
HEAD WRITER

Bart Sears
ART DIRECTOR

Pam Davies
PRODUCTION DIRECTOR

Sylvia Bretz
PRODUCTION SUPERVISOR

Janet Bechtle
Randy Martin
PRODUCTION ASSISTANTS

Michelle Pugliese
FREELANCE
COORDINATOR

CROSSGEN COMICS
14
JUNE
$2.95
$4.75 CAN
www.crossgen.com
Chuck Dixon
Steve Epting
Rick Magyar
Frank D'Armata

THE STORY THUS FAR...

THEY WERE THE ATLANTEANS,

a peaceful civilization of artists and philosophers who used their phenomenal mental and physical skills to build an island utopia. They had but one responsibility: to guide and shepherd Earth's newborn race of *homo sapiens* towards a grand and glorious destiny. But when a mysterious cataclysm plunged Atlantis and its people beneath the waves, six – and only six – were awakened by a nameless stranger one thousand centuries later to find their utopia forgotten and in ruins, their brothers and sisters caught in an unshakeable slumber...and the human race gone, having vanished centuries ago in the Transition, a passage to a higher plane of existence.

Galvan has disturbing visions of his brother Gammid and the final humans he accompanied through Transition. Tug, temporarily blinded by a Negation hunter, and Verityn have uncovered a relic of what appears to be an alien construct that is ancient even to them. Inside this relic they have discovered two living beings...still alive after all these millennia.

The mental and physical abilities of the Atlanteans are identical in nature but not in application. Capricia and her teammates have each channeled their abilities into different skills:

CAPRICIA	DANIK	TUG	ZEPHYRE	GALVAN	VERITYN
Shapeshifter and empath	Keeper of the secrets	Telekinetic strongman	Hypermetabolic intellectual	Manipulator of the electromagnetic spectrum	Seer of all truths

Crux™ Vol. 1, Issue 14, JUNE [illegible]. Published by CrossGeneration Comics, Inc. Office of publication: 4023 Tampa Road, Suite 2400, Oldsmar, Florida 34677.
CrossGen® CrossGen Comics® CrossGeneration®, CrossGeneration Comics® and the CrossGen sigil® are registered trademarks of CrossGeneration Comics, Inc. Crux™ and all prominent characters are ™ and © 2002 CrossGeneration Comics, Inc. All rights reserved. The entire contents of this book are ™ and © 2002 CrossGeneration Comics, Inc. The stories, incidents and characters in this publication are fictional. Any similarities to persons living or dead are purely coincidental. With the exception of artwork used for review purposes, none of the contents of this book may be reproduced in any form without the express written consent of CrossGeneration Comics, Inc. PRINTED IN CANADA.

WHAT'S GOING ON?
WHERE'D ALL THOSE WHATEVERS COME FROM?
CAN'T TALK RIGHT NOW, GEROM! WE'VE GOT OUR HANDS FULL!

NEVER SEEN SO MANY OF THOSE UGLIES
AND THERE'S NOTHING I CAN DO. THEY'RE ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE WORLD
YEAH, GALVAN!
FRY THOSE CRAWLIES!
MAN!
LOOK OUT, ZEPHYRE!
YES!
CAPRICIA KICKS SOME SERIOUS NEGATION TAIL!

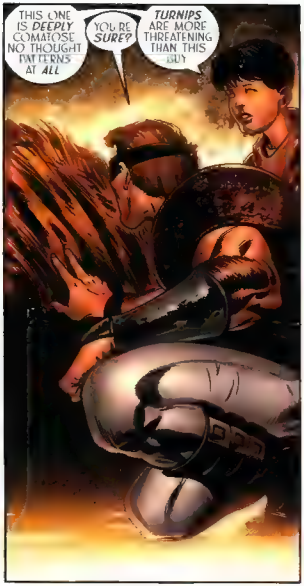
Uh?
WHO'S THESE GUYS?
THEY MUST HAVE TRACKED ME ALONG THE TRANSMISSION WITH ZEPHYRE!
DAMN!

ZEPHYRE! THERE'S SOME KIND OF---GUYS HERE!
THERE'S UGLIES EVERYWHERE, GEROM! YOU THINK I CAN'T SEE THEM?
PUT ON SOME SPEED, ZEPH! DRAW THEIR FIRE!
ALL OVER IT, CAPRICIA!
I MEAN HERE! WITH ME! THEY'RE NOT BUGS! THEY'RE SOMETHING ELSE!
SOMETHING MEAN!
TAKE YOURBEST SHOT!
HERE!
HERE!
OR LOVER HERE!

THEY USED THE SAME PORTAL GAMMID AND THE HUMANS WENT THROUGH?
THAT WAS WHAT YOUR BROTHER WAS TRYING TO WARN US ABOUT, GALVAN
WHEREVER THE HUMANS WENT, THE NEGATION IS THERE
WHAT ABOUT GAMMID?
WE'LL DEAL WITH THAT WHEN WE'VE DEALT WITH THE UGLIES
CAN WE DEAL WITH THEM, CAPRICIA?
WHAT CHOICE DO WE HAVE?
I ONLY WISH WE WERE UP TO FULL STRENGTH
WHERE'S VERITYN AND TUG?
EVERYTHING ON LINE?
WE'RE POWERED UP

ARE YOU *SURE* WE'RE DOING THE RIGHT THING, VERITYN?
NO
THE HONESTY IS *NOT* APPRECIATED
AND I WISH I UNDERSTOOD THESE *CONTROLS* BETTER
STASIS FIELD OFF
I *THINK*
NOW COMES THE *TRICKY* PART, TUG

FIGURING OUT WHAT TO *DO* WITH THEM
LET'S JUST HOPE THEY DON'T WAKE UP BEFORE WE *WANT* THEM TO
ALTHOUGH BEING ASLEEP FOR A THOUSAND CENTURIES MIGHT MAKE THEM GROGGY
YOU *HOPE*
WITH *ALL* MY HEART, VERITYN


THIS ONE IS DEEPLY COMATOSE NO THOUGHT PATTERNS AT ALL
YOU'RE SURE?
TURNIPS ARE MORE THREATENING THAN THIS ISN'T

OUR ATLANTEAN BROTHER IS COMATOSE TOO
BUT THERE'S BRAIN ACTIVITY
SOMETHING ABOUT ALL THIS SEEMS FAMILIAR. TUG

YOUR DREAM, RIGHT? THAT'S WHAT BROUGHT US HERE
SOMETHING ELSE A MYTH A LEGEND WE TOLD IN SCHOOL
-- ABOUT A HERO LOCKED IN ETERNAL COMBAT --

-- WITH A BEAST.
YEAH I REMEMBER THAT ONE TOO

WOW!
WOO
TOO CLOSE
huh?

WILL HE WAKE UP?
I'M NOT SURE.
THIS SCIENCE IS *DIFFERENT* FROM OURS. HE'S BREATHING AND...

TUG!
YOU SAID IT WAS IN A COMA!
THIRTY SECONDS AGO IT WAS BRAIN-DEAD!

MAYBE IT RUNS ON PURE INSTINCT AND >UNNH<!
THAT HURT!
A BLAST TO ITS CEREBRAL CORTEX SHOULD SLOW IT DOWN
I JUST SHOOK IT OFF!
THAT SHOCK SHOULD HAVE FLOORED IT!
SOMEHOW IT CAN SHIELD ITS MIND. TUG
IT'S GOING TO TAKE MUSCLE TO BRING IT DOWN

STAND BACK, VERITYN THIS COULD GET *UGLY*

UGLIER ANYWAY

ΠΣΠΠΥΣΗΛ

ΠΥΥΥΥΥ...

ΘΕΠΗΝΘΙΙΣΛ

UFF!

TUG!

TUG!

THERE'S TOO *MANY!* WHAT DO WE DO?
TAKE DOWN AS MANY AS WE CAN MAKE IT *COST* THEM
I'M NOT SURE THEY CARE
THEY'RE A *HIVE*MIND. NOT INDIVIDUALS
THEY'LL TRADE *ALL* THEIR LIVES FOR--
OURS?

DANIK?
THEY CAME THROUGH THIS PORTAL THE HUMANS CONSTRUCTED?
YOU KNEW
YES A RHETORICAL QUESTION
THEY'RE REGROUPING
HE KNEW? WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY THAT?
WE NEED YOU, DANIK. THEY'LL OVERRUN US IF...
ALL IN GOOD TIME, CAPRICIA
THERE'S BEEN A MISUNDERSTANDING BETWEEN US. IT'S IMPORTANT TO HEAL THIS RIFT. THAT WE STAND UNITED.
NO
RIGHT! HELP US THROW BACK THESE NEGATION -
THIS IS GREATER THAN THIS CURRENT THREAT

YOU'RE NOT MAKING *SENSE*, DANIN
I'M MAKING *PERFECT* SENSE, CAPRICIA. YOU JUST HAVEN'T SEEN WHAT *I'VE* SEEN
I WAS *WRONG* TO BE SO SECRETIVE WITH YOU
PRICIA? IS THIS PART OF A *PLAN?*
THEY'RE *DESERTING* US, STUPID!
IT'S *IMPORTANT* THAT WE TALK
IT CAN *WAIT!*
I HAVE DECIDED IT *CAN'T*
GALVAN AND ZEPHYRE CAN'T HOLD BACK THAT HORDE!
I *SUPPOSE*

YOU OF ALL PEOPLE MUST BE MADE TO REALIZE WHAT'S AT STAKE
IT ALL COMES DOWN TO YOU
I DON'T--
BUT YOU WILL COME WITH ME AND I'LL SHOW YOU THE TRUTH
THAT GUN THE UGLIES ARE BRINGING UP IS BAD NEWS
DANIK! WE CAN'T JUST LEAVE THEM!
I SUPPOSE AS WELL THAT I WON'T HAVE YOUR COMPLETE ATTENTION UNLESS I INTERVENE
YOU'LL HAVE IT IF YOU DON'T DO SOMETHING
BUT YOU WON'T LIKE IT
VERY WELL

SATISFIED?

UNNH
CAN YOU REACH ITS MIND VERITYN--
UNNH!
IT'S USING A MENTAL SCREEN TO BLOCK ME!
LEAVE TUG ALONE!
VERITYN!
STAY AWAY!
UH!
NO!
IF YOU'VE HURT HIM I'LL
NNG!

WISH I KNEW-- WHAT YOU WERE SAYING

THRAXIS?
THAT IS THE BEAST'S NAME. HE IS IN A WEAKENED STATE, SO I WAS ABLE TO FEL. HIM
WEAKENED? HE NEARLY GUTTED ME
BY THE WAY, MY NAME IS TUG. THAT'S VERITYN OVER THERE
I AM ARISTOPHANES
ARISTOPHANES?
NO WAY

THE STARS ARE BEAUTIFUL FROM HERE
THE LIGHT OF SO MANY *MORE* REACH EARTH THAN WHEN ATLANTIS WAS YOUNG
LOVELY.
SPARE ME THE PHILOSOPHICAL MUSINGS, DANIK
I NEED TO SPEAK WITH YOU, CAPRICIA
I DON'T KNOW WHAT *HAPPENED* TO YOU
IS THERE *ANYTHING* LEFT OF THE DANIK I KNEW?
EVEN THE *SMALLEST* PART?
WE NEED TO SPEAK OF THE *FUTURE* AND YOUR *PLACE* IN IT
THERE ARE *TASKS* TO BE PERFORMED
AND *SACRIFICES* MADE

STORYTELLERS

Chuck **DIXON**
WRITER

Steve **EPTING**
PENCILER

Rick **MAGYAR**
INKER

Frank **D'ARMATA**
COLORIST

Dave **LANPHEAR**
LETTERER

Mark Alessi
PUBLISHER & CEO

Gina M. Villa
CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER

Michael A. Beattie
CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

Tony Panaccio
VICE PRESIDENT
PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT

Chris Oarr
DIRECTOR OF
SALES & MARKETING

James Breitbeil
DIRECTOR OF
MARKETING & DISTRIBUTION

Ian M. Feller
DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE
COMMUNICATIONS

Courtland Whited
MIS DIRECTOR

Gabo Mendoza
INTERNET SERVICES DIRECTOR

Charles Decker
DIRECTOR OF
PRODUCTION CONTROL

Brian M. Soltis
CONTROLLER

Brandon Peterson
VICE PRESIDENT
SPECIAL PROJECTS

Barbara Kesel
HEAD WRITER

Bart Sears
ART DIRECTOR

Pam Davies
PRODUCTION DIRECTOR

Sylvia Bretz
PRODUCTION SUPERVISOR

Janet Bechtle
Randy Martin
PRODUCTION ASSISTANTS

Michelle Pugliese
FREELANCE
COORDINATOR

CROSSGEN
COMICS
15
JULY
$2.95
$4.75 CAN.
www.crossgen.com
CROUX
Chuck Dixon
Steve Epting
Rick Magyar
Frank D'Armata

THE STORY THUS FAR...

THEY WERE THE ATLANTEANS,

a peaceful civilization of artists and philosophers who used their phenomenal mental and physical skills to build an island utopia. They had but one responsibility: to guide and shepherd Earth's newborn race of *homo sapiens* towards a grand and glorious destiny. But when a mysterious cataclysm plunged Atlantis and its people beneath the waves, six – and only six – were awakened by a nameless stranger one thousand centuries later to find their utopia forgotten and in ruins, their brothers and sisters caught in an unshakeable slumber...and the human race gone, having vanished centuries ago in the Transition, a passage to a higher plane of existence.

The Negation has attacked on two fronts; Geromi is assaulted at Terra Cognito Base while Capricia and the others face an inexhaustible force in Australia. Capricia is pulled from the battle by Danik. Tug and Verityn have revived two mysterious strangers and are rescued from the savagery of the more bestial by the other, a warrior claiming to be a figure out of Atlantean legend.

The mental and physical abilities of the Atlanteans are identical in nature but not in application. Capricia and her teammates have each channeled their abilities into different skills:

CAPRICIA	DANIK	TUG	ZEPHYRE	GALVAN	VERITYN
Shapeshifter and empath	Keeper of the secrets	Telekinetic strongman	Hypermetabolic intellectual	Manipulator of the electromagnetic spectrum	Seer of all truths

Crux® Vol. 1 Issue 15 JULY 2002 FIRST PRINTING. Published by CrossGeneration Comics, Inc. Office of publication: 4023 Tampa Road, Suite 2400, Oldsmar, Florida 34677
Crux®, CrossGen®, CrossGen Comics®, CrossGeneration®, CrossGeneration Comics®, and the CrossGen sigil® are registered trademarks of CrossGeneration Comics, Inc. All prominent characters are ™ and © 2002 CrossGeneration Comics® Inc. All rights reserved. The entire contents of this book are ™ and © 2002 CrossGeneration Comics, Inc. The stories, incidents and characters in this publication are fictional. Any similarities to persons living or dead are purely coincidental. With the exception of artwork used for review purposes, none of the contents of this book may be reproduced in any form without the express written consent of CrossGeneration Comics, Inc. PRINTED IN CANADA.

I AM ARISTOPHANES, GENERAL AND HIGH PRIEST OF THE LEGIONS OF ATLAN.
YOU DOUBT WHAT I SAY.
EVEN AFTER I SPARED YOUR LIFE BY BRINGING LOW THIS BEAST?

Uh. WE BELIEVE YOU. IT'S JUST...
SPEAK!
YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE DEAD -- OVER A HUNDRED THOUSAND YEARS DEAD.
AND WHO ARE YOU?
WE'RE ATLANTEANS. JUST LIKE YOU.
IT'S TRUE!
BUT WE NEVER EXPECTED TO FIND ANYONE ALIVE IN THIS--
WHAT EXACTLY IS THIS ANYWAY?

HE'S TUG AND I'M VERITYN
A VESSEL IT TRAVELED HERE FROM THE STARS
AND BROUGHT WITH IT THE BEASTS AND THEIR MASTERS

THEY CAME IN A VESSEL AS WIDE ACROSS AS THE CITY ITSELF
ALL OF *ATLANTIS* CAME OUT INTO THE STREETS AND ONTO THE ROOFTOPS TO GREET THEM
THEN THE *HORROR* BEGAN
THEY USED THEIR SCIENCE TO TAKE MEN AND WOMEN AND EVEN *CHILDREN* INTO THEIR SHIP

WEEKS LATER, RUNNERS BROUGHT WORD THAT THE SHIP HAD *LANDED* FAR TO THE NORTH
I ASSEMBLED AN ARMY OF MY PEOPLE AND *MARCHED* UPON THE STRANGERS
OUR INITIAL ATTACK WAS A *SURPRISE* TO THEM

WE BATTLED UNTIL THERE WAS ONLY ONE, THE BEAST YOU SEE HERE
I KNOW NOTHING AFTER THAT
SOMEHOW YOU AND HE WERE PUT IN STASIS.
WHAT'D THE GUYS WHO RAN THIS SHIP LOOK LIKE?
THE STUFF OF NIGHTMARES
YOU ARE OF ATLANTIS? THEN WE WERE VICTORIOUS
Uh YEAH
YOU MUST TAKE ME THERE
WELL
ATLANTIS YET EXISTS, DOES IT NOT?
YES
AND NO
THERE'S BEEN A FEW COMPLICATIONS
YOU CAN DO THIS GEROM!

YOU RE THE MAN
LOOKING FOR ME, STUPID?
HEY! RIGHT OVER HERE!
WHOA!
THAT PLAN WORKED NICELY
STICK AROUND FOR PHASE TWO, UGLIES

THIS BETTER WORK
PLEASE LET THIS WORK
PLEASE
A LITTLE CLOSER
THAT'S IT ROOM FOR EVERYBODY
YES!
OOP!

BEAUTIFUL!
NEGATIONOIDS NEGATED!

IF HE'S SO *GREAT*, WHY'D HE LEAVE THIS MESS?
DANIK *SAVED* US, GAIVAN. THOSE CREEPY THINGS THAT CAME FROM THE GATEWAY WOULD HAVE *KILLED* US.
AND HE JUST MADE THEM *VANISH*
HE *VAPORIZED* THEM, ZEPHYRE AND LEFT THIS STINKING *DUST* ALL OVER
AND IT *DOES* STINK
WE DON'T *HAVE* TO STAY HERE
WE CAN GO *ANYWHERE* ON THE PLANET
SO, *WHERE*?
WHEN *CAPRICIA* GETS BACK WE CAN
CAPRICIA

WHO DECIDED *SHE* WOULD BE LEADER?
AND IF SHE'S RUNNING THINGS, WHERE *IS* SHE?
WITH DANIK
RIGHT, *DANIK*
OUR MYSTERIOUS STRANGER TURNS OUT TO BE *THAT* POMPOUS JERK
AND NOW HE'S LIKE SOME KIND OF *GOD*.
CAPRICIA AND DANIK TOGETHER AGAIN
ISN'T *THAT* JUST FABULOUS?
WHERE ARE YOU *GOING*, GALVAN?
WHO *CARES*?
BUT...
--WHAT ABOUT THE GATEWAY?
TRANSITION
WHEN DID THIS HAPPEN?

ABOUT A HUNDRED THOUSAND YEARS AGO
OR TEN THOUSAND YEARS IN YOUR FUTURE
THE ONE IN THE PAST YOU REMEMBER
ABOUT
AND WHY ARE YOU NOT TRANSCENDED?
WE VOLUNTEERED TO STAY BEHIND
WE WENT INTO STASIS SO WE COULD CONTINUE OUR PEOPLE'S MISSION TO MENTOR THE HUMAN RACE
HUMANS
AND WHEN THE TIME CAME WE WERE THE ONLY ONES TO WAKE UP
HOW MANY?
THERE'S FIVE OF US
BUT OVER A THOUSAND STILL SLEEP IN ATLANTIS
AND WE DON'T KNOW HOW TO WAKE THEM UP

WE MUST GO TO ATLANTIS
Uh
OH KAY
AND WE'LL TAKE THIS VESSEL *WITH* US
THIS SHIP IS EMBEDDED IN MILLIONS OF TONS OF GLACIAL ROCK
AND EVEN IF WE COULD FREE IT, IT'S SEVERELY DAMAGED
I AM *AWARE* OF THAT
IT WAS *MY* LEGIONS THAT GAVE THEIR LIVES TO CRIPPLE IT.
BUT WE *WILL* FREE IT AND WE *WILL* BRING IT TO ATLANTIS
AND THIS CREATURE WILL *AID* US

CAPRICIA?
I WANTED TO SPARE YOU THIS
BUT THERE IS NO OTHER WAY
AND ALL YOU'VE TOLD ME IS TRUE?
I HOPE YOU KNOW ME BETTER THAN THAT
I DON'T KNOW YOU AT ALL, DANIK
NOT EVERYTHING ABOUT ME HAS CHANGED
I STILL CARE BUT THERE ARE FORCES AT WORK THAT
--THAT REQUIRE A SACRIFICE FROM ME
I--
SEND ME BACK, DANIK

SEND ME BACK DANIK, SEND ME--
BACK
PRICIA! HOW--
DANIK SENT ME HERE WHEREVER "HERE" IS
SO YOU TALKED TO HIM!
HE TALKED I LISTENED
WHO IS THIS?
YOU'LL NEVER BELIEVE THIS--
AT THIS POINT, THERE'S VERY LITTLE I WOULDN'T BELIEVE
I AM ARISTOPHANES, GENERAL AND HIGH PRIEST OF THE--
ARISTOPHANES?

SO, MAYBE I CAN STILL BE SURPRISED
GALVAN?
GAMMID?

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, PRICIA?
WHAT'S NEXT?
HOW MUCH AM I SUPPOSED TO DE 4 WITH IN ONE DAY?
WHAT'S SHE TALKING ABOUT?
LONG STORY. TUG
WELL, I GUESS WE TAKE ARISTOPHANES AND WHATEVER THAT IS ON THE FLOOR BACK--
WE ARE RETURNING TO ATLANTIS
EXCUSE ME?
YOU'RE NOT GIVING THE ORDERS HERE
AND I WILL NOT FOLLOW THE COMMANDS OF A WOMAN
YOU JUST WOKE UP MAYBE YOU'RE CRANKY
BUT UNTIL I KNOW THAT YOU ARE WHO YOU SAY YOU ARE--
PRICIA

HOW DID THE NEGATION FIND US *HERE?*

IT'S ME
I'M THE ONE THEY WANT

--AND I MEAN BARELY ESCAPED WITH MY LIFE.
I MEAN, WHERE'D THEY COME FROM?
WHY'RE THEY AFTER ME?
AND ARE THEY STILL AFTER ME?
THAT'S NICE, GEROM!
NICE? ARE YOU EVEN LISTENING? I NEED HELP HERE.
THEY WERE BUGS WE HAD BUGS HERE
THESE WEREN'T BUGS THEY WERE HUMANS.
'CEPT THEY HAD SOME KINDA WEIRD ENERGY FIELD INSTEAD OF EYES.
LIKE THE HUNTER.
I HAVE TO FIND GALVAN
HUH?

GAMMID?
IS IT YOU?
IT'S ME. I'M ON THE OTHER SIDE
IT'S BEAUTIFUL
SEE?
I'M JUST FINE. TRANSITION WENT PERFECTLY.
BUT YOU CAME BACK.
ONLY FOR YOU.
LOOK, I KNOW YOU DON'T WANT TO TALK ABOUT THIS, BUT WE HAVE TO SINCE--
GALVAN!

NO!
IT'S ALL RIGHT, ZEPHYRE IT'S MY BROTHER
IT'S GAMMID.
HE WANTS US TO JOIN HIM

STORYTELLERS

Chuck **DIXON**
WRITER

Steve **EPTING**
PENCILER

Rick **MAGYAR**
INKER

Frank **D'ARMATA**
COLORIST

Dave **LANPHEAR**
LETTERER

Mark Alessi
PUBLISHER & CEO

Gina M. Villa
CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER

Michael A. Beattie
CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

Tony Panaccio
VICE PRESIDENT
PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT

Chris Oarr
DIRECTOR OF
SALES & MARKETING

James Breitbeil
DIRECTOR OF
MARKETING & DISTRIBUTION

Ian M. Feller
DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE
COMMUNICATIONS

Courtland Whited
MIS DIRECTOR

Gabo Mendoza
INTERNET SERVICES DIRECTOR

Charles Decker
DIRECTOR OF
PRODUCTION CONTROL

Brian M. Soltis
CONTROLLER

Brandon Peterson
VICE PRESIDENT
SPECIAL PROJECTS

Barbara Kesel
HEAD WRITER

Bart Sears
ART DIRECTOR

Pam Davies
PRODUCTION DIRECTOR

Sylvia Bretz
PRODUCTION SUPERVISOR

Janet Bachtle
Randy Martin
PRODUCTION ASSISTANTS

Michelle Pugliese
FREELANCE
COORDINATOR

CROSSGEN
comics
16
AUG
$2.95
$4.75 CAN
www.crossgen.com
Chuck Dixon
Steve Epting
Rick Magyar
Frank D'Armata

THE STORY THUS FAR...

THEY WERE THE ATLANTEANS,

a peaceful civilization of artists and philosophers who used their phenomenal mental and physical skills to build an island utopia. They had but one responsibility: to guide and shepherd Earth's newborn race of *homo sapiens* towards a grand and glorious destiny. But when a mysterious cataclysm plunged Atlantis and its people beneath the waves, six – and only six – were awakened by a nameless stranger one thousand centuries later to find their utopia forgotten and in ruins, their brothers and sisters caught in an unshakeable slumber...and the human race gone, having vanished centuries ago in the Transition, a passage to a higher plane of existence.

The mysterious Atlantean warrior awakened by Tug and Verityn turns out to be Aristophanes, legendary hero of ancient Atlantis. But introductions are cut short by a new invasion from the Negation universe. At the same time, a more insidious plot from the Negation lures an unwitting Galvan into their clutches.

The mental and physical abilities of the Atlanteans are identical in nature but not in application. Capricia and her teammates have each channeled their abilities into different skills.

CAPRICIA – Shapeshifter and empath

DANIK – Keeper of the secrets

TUG – Telekinetic strongman

ZEPHYRE – Hypermetabolic intellectual

GALVAN – Manipulator of the electromagnetic spectrum

VERITYN – Seer of all truths

Crux® Vol. 1, Issue 16 AUGUST 2002. FIRST PRINTING. Published by CrossGeneration Comics, Inc. Office of publication: 4023 Tampa Road, Suite 2400, Oldsmar, Florida 34677
Crux®, CrossGen®, CrossGen Comics®, CrossGeneration®, CrossGeneration Comics®, and the CrossGen sigil® are registered trademarks of CrossGeneration Comics, Inc. All prominent characters are ™ and © 2002 CrossGeneration Comics, Inc. All rights reserved. The entire contents of this book are ™ and © 2002 CrossGeneration Comics, Inc. The stories, incidents and characters in this publication are fictional. Any similarities to persons, living or dead, are purely coincidental. With the exception of artwork used for review purposes, none of the contents of this book may be reproduced in any form without the express written consent of CrossGeneration Comics, Inc. PRINTED IN CANADA.

WHAT IS *HAPPENING* HERE?
IT'S A *NEGATION* PORTA.
THAT TELLS ME *NOTHING*
IT'S TOO MUCH TO *EXPLAIN*, ARISTOPHANES

IT'S A *GATEWAY* TO ANOTHER DIMENSION

AND THESE BEINGS MEAN US *HARM?*

OH, YEAH

THEN THEY WILL *DIE!*

PRICIA, WHAT DO YOU MEAN *THEY'RE HERE FOR ME?*

DANIK TOLD *YOU* TOO RIGHT? WELL NOW I KNOW *MY* PLACE IN THE FUTURE VERTYN

THE NEGATION IS *TARGETING* ME THEY HAVE BEEN ALL ALONG

DANIK?

THIS WORLD IS NOT *YOURS!*

RETURN TO YOUR HELLISH SPHERE WHILE YOU CAN!

WHOA ARISTOPHANES S JUST LIKE THE *STORIES* ABOUT HIM

THE NEGATION'S ATTACKS HAVE STEADILY *ESCALATED*. WE'LL *NEED* HIS BRAND OF HEROISM

DID YOU SAY *DANIK?*

LATER, TUG

NOW IS *NOT* A GOOD T ME

GALVAN!

NO!

GALVAN!

IT'S A NEGATRON MONSTER! IT'S NOT GAMMID!
IT IS GAMMID, ZEPH. MY BROTHER'S BACK
SEE WHY I DIDN'T LET CAPRICIA DESTROY THE PORTAL?
NONONONONO!
HE NEEDS MY HELP TO COME THROUGH
SOMETHING IS HOLDING HIM BACK!
IT'S THE NEGATION!
IT'S NOT YOUR BROTHER!
UH?
GALVAN!
-GAAHK-

FIGHT IT!
YOU CAN'T *LET* IT PULL YOU TO THE OTHER SIDE GALVAN!
TOO STRONG
THESE AREN'T MINDLESS BEASTS!

UNNH!
THEY'RE PART OF THE NEGATION'S ARMY
THIS IS ALL PART OF A GRAND STRATEGY
IS THIS HELLISH HOST THE CAUSE OF ATLANTIS FALL?
UH!
NO... IT WAS-
=UH!=
IS THERE NO END TO THEM?

WHY IS CAPRIC A TALKING ABOUT *DANIK?*

HE'S *WITH* US, TUG. HE'S THE *MYSTERY* GUY WHO'S BEEN HANGING AROUND

THAT'S *NOT* DANIK, VERITYN. HE'S *DIFFERENT*

HE'S *CHANGED*. HE'S BEEN *AWAKE* ALL THIS TIME

THERE'S TOO MANY NEGATION CREEPS TUG

WE CAN'T

Hun?

I FORGOT ABOUT YOU WHAT ARE YOU?

I WISH I COULD *TALK* TO YOU. *YOU'RE* IN AS MUCH DANGER AS --

IS

NGSCSH

NGSCSH
GNGSSNT

FROM SOME OTHER PLACE WILD ANIMALS DIFFERENT THAN YOU ARE NOW

THE SPACESHIP *THIS* SHIP JUST LIKE ARISTOPHANES TOLD US

THEY CHANGED YOU REDESIGNED

MADE YOU THEIR *SLAVES*

LORDS OF HALGEDAE - LIVE -

GIVE ME STRENGTH!

CAPRICIA!

YOU FREED THE BEAST?

WHAT CHOICE DID I HAVE?

HE'S AS LIKELY TO KILL US AS THAT THING IS!

YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND, TUG

HE'S NOT AN ENEMY OF ATLANTIS HE NEVER WAS
THRAXIS WAS A SLAVE TO THE UGLIES WHO RAN THIS SHIP
THAT'S HIS NAME--
THRAXIS?
--I THINK
GET BACK, ZEPH!
YOU'LL BE PULLED IN, TOO!
I-- CAN'T!
YOU HAVE TO!
--UNNH!--
STAY AWAY, ZEPH! STAY AWAY!
GALVAN--
--I LOVE YOU!!
I LOVE YOU

ZEPHYRE!
WHO--?
I FINALLY REACHED YOU!
I HAD TO DESTROY THE TERRA COGNITO BASE TO ESCAPE THOSE SPACEFACE GUYS!
GEROMI?
TOOK ME AL. THIS TIME TO FIND A SAT-BASE THAT S STIL OPERATIONAL
SOMETHING BIG MUST BE HAPPENING IF THE NEGAT.ONIKS ARE COMING ON THIS STRONG
WHERE S CAPR.CIA? I NEED TO TELL HER WHAT S --
CAPRICIA?
Aw. NO, DON T RUN OFF ON ME --
AGAIN
DAMN--

DOESN'T ANYONE STAND STILL ANYMORE?
NO!
YOU'VE RELEASED THE BEAST!
YOU'VE DOOMED US ALL!
GET 'EM, THRAXIS! YOU CAN DO IT!
THAT MONSTER IS TEN TIMES THE SIZE OF YOUR NEW FURRY FRIEND
THRAXIS CAN WHIP THAT UGLY! HE'S GOT HEART!
DO I REALLY HAVE TO REMIND YOU--
--THAT CREATURE IS NOT A PET

KRAAAK

ARE YOU HURT, CAPRICIA?
I'M NOT SURE
I DON'T THINK SO
YOU'RE OKAY NOW THE FIGHT IS OVER
THOSE CREEPS ARE HEADING BACK HOME
THEY'RE GETTING AWAY! NOW IS THE TIME TO PRESS OUR ADVANTAGE!
NO, ARISTOPHANES!
LET THEM GO!

NEVER ALLOW AN ENEMY TO RETIRE FROM THE FIELD
WE MUST HARRY THEM TO THE LAST!
THAT MAN IS INSANE
WITHOUT HIM AND THRAXIS YOU MIGHT BE DEAD
THRAXIS?
THEY'RE ROUTED! THEIR SPIRIT BROKEN!
WE MUST CARRY THE BATTLE TO THEM!
THEY

HE'S GONE
WELL, THAT CONFIRMS THAT THE LEGENDS ABOUT HIM ARE TRUE
I ALMOST FEEL SORRY FOR THE ENTIRE NEGATION UNIVERSE
TOO MUCH IT'S ALL MOVING TOO SWIFTLY
FOR ALL OF US WHAT'S THIS ABOUT PATH?
I'LL MAKE YOU A DEAL, TUG
LET ME REST FOR A MOMENT AND I'LL EXPLAIN AS MUCH AS I CAN
AND YOU'LL TELL ME WHERE WE ARE AND WHAT THAT THING IS

...BUT FOR RIGHT NOW I'M JUST *EXHAUSTED*
WELL
HOPE THERE'S SOME *FOOD* HERE
EVEN SOME TERRA COGNITO SEMI-BURGERS WOULD GO DOWN GOOD ABOUT-
Uh?

WELL, LOOKÉE HERE, MISSY A STRANGER IN TOWN
LOOKS LIKE TROUBLE TIME MAYBE HE'S ITCHIN FOR A FIGHT

STORYTELLERS

Chuck DIXON
WRITER

Steve EPTING
PENCILER

Rick MAGYAR
INKER

Frank D'ARMATA
COLORIST

Dave LANPHEAR
LETTERER

Mark Alessi
PUBLISHER & CEO

Gina M. Villa
CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER

Michael A. Beattie
CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

Tony Panaccio
VICE PRESIDENT
PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT

Chris Oarr
DIRECTOR OF
SALES & MARKETING

James Breitbeil
DIRECTOR OF
MARKETING & DISTRIBUTION

Ian M. Feller
DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE
COMMUNICATIONS

Courtland Whited
MIS DIRECTOR

Gabo Mendoza
INTERNET SERVICES DIRECTOR

Charles Decker
DIRECTOR OF
PRODUCTION CONTROL

Brian M. Soltis
CONTROLLER

Brandon Peterson
VICE PRESIDENT
SPECIAL PROJECTS

Barbara Kesel
HEAD WRITER

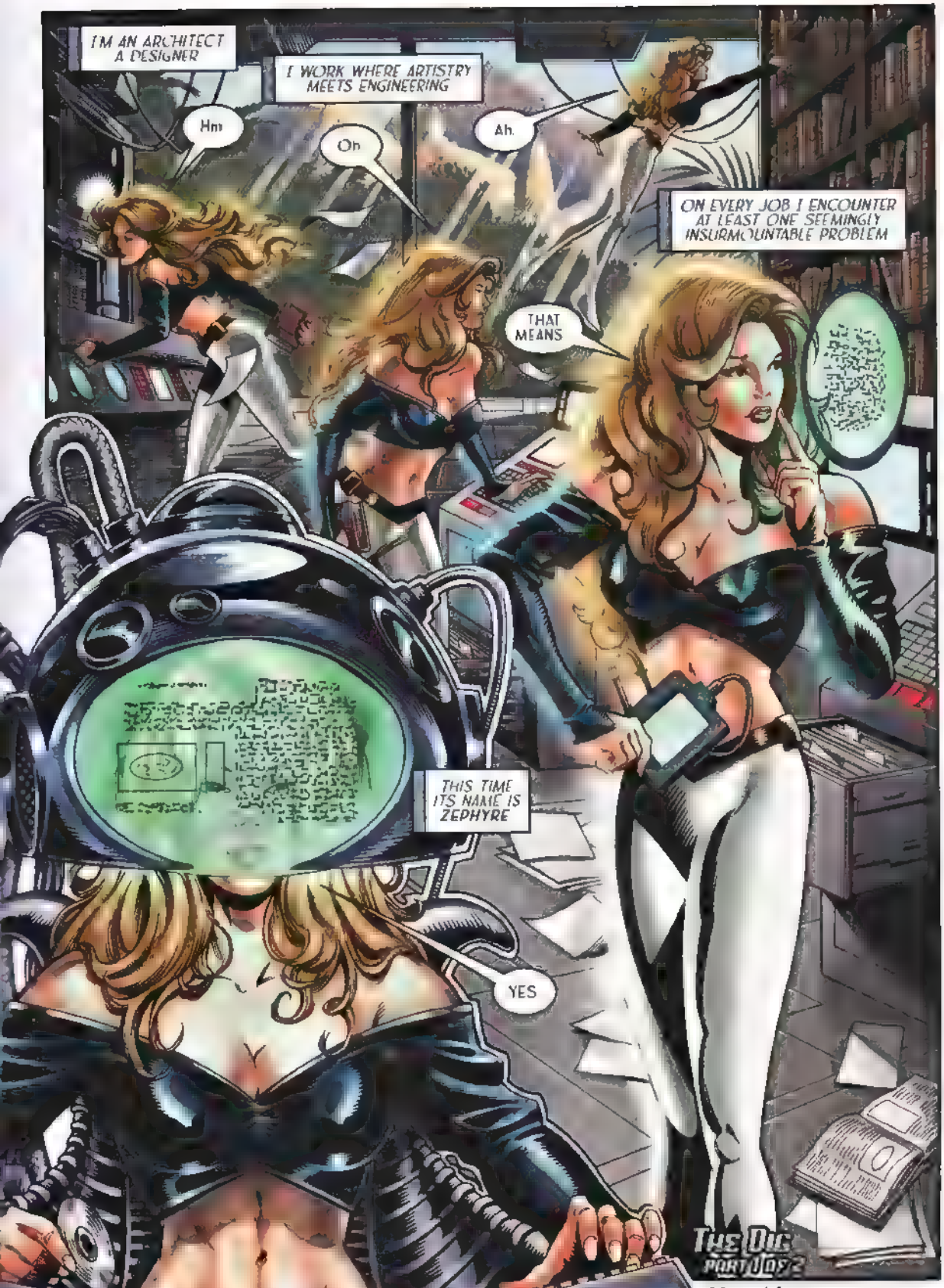
Bart Sears
ART DIRECTOR

Pam Davies
PRODUCTION DIRECTOR

Sylvia Bretz
PRODUCTION SUPERVISOR

Janet Bechtle
Randy Martin
PRODUCTION ASSISTANTS

Michelle Pugliese
FREELANCE
COORDINATOR



MARK WAID
WITH CHUCK DIXON.....WRITERS
RICK MAGYAR.....PENCILER
TOM SIMMONS
WITH MATT RYAN.....INKERS
LAURA VILLARI.....COLORIST
DAVE LANPHEAR.....LETTERER

THIS PROJECT IS A DESPERATELY NEEDED WAVE GENERATOR
AND WORK IS HALTED BY - I'M NOT SURE WHAT
SO, WHAT'S THE PLAN TUG? DO WE BLAST IT OR DIG AROUND IT OR
THIS DIDN'T SHOW UP ON THE RAD O-SEISMOGRAPH
I'VE SENT THE IMAGE FILE TO THE DATACENTER SO FAR THERE'S NO RECORD OF ANYTHING LIKE THIS BEFORE
THE ALPHABET ISN'T IN A KNOWN LANGUAGE
THIS IS GOING TO THROW US OFF SCHEDULE IT HAS TO BE MOVED OR
OR THE ARCHEOLOGISTS ARE GOING TO BE ALL OVER US AND NOTHING WILL GET DONE
NOT TO MENTION THE MOUNTAINS OF FORMS AND STUDIES AND PAPERS

THERE'S ALREADY AN OCEAN OF RAW DATA AND WE HAVEN'T EVEN RUN SENSORS OVER IT YET
WE HAVE TO GET THIS SECTION DONE THIS WEEK. OUR PERMITS FOR BLASTING--
--END IN THREE DAYS
TOO MUCH INFORMATION AND NOT ENOUGH TIME
I CUT THIS DATASTREAM OFF AT THE SOURCE
SO, WHAT DO WE DO, TUG?
IT SOUNDS EASY
WHO'S E.R.N.G. ALL THIS GIBBERISH AT ME?
THAT
WOULD
BE
ME.
BIG
GUY

ZEPHYRE --
WHY ARE --
Uh --
ZEPHYRE --
ZEPHYRE!
OH!
COME WITH ME!

LOOK AT ALL THIS
YES?
I BUILT ALL THIS DESIGNED IT
SAW IT GO FROM A HOLE IN THE GROUND TO HOMES AND UNIVERSITIES
SO?
SO WHY ARE YOU MAKING MY JOB SO DIFFICULT OVER A STONE DISC?
IT'S PROBABLY JUST AN ANCIENT SEWER COVER
YOU'RE SERIOUS ABOUT THIS
IT'S ALL IN THE DOCUMENTATION
AND THE CEASE ORDERS CAN'T YOU JUST TELL ME? WHAT'S SO CRUCIAL ABOUT THIS ARTIFACT?
YOU HAVE TO READ THE DATA I SENT IT'S ABOUT PRESERVING OUR HISTORY--OUR PAST
AS SERIOUS AS YOU ARE ABOUT YOUR PROJECT

DO YOU EVEN KNOW WHAT THIS IS?
NO AND THAT'S EXACTLY MY POINT, TUG
BECAUSE WE DON'T KNOW WHAT IT IS, IT HAS TO BE PRESERVED
WE'RE SO FOCUSED ON OUR DESTINY THAT WE FORGET WHAT CAME BEFORE US. THE SCRIPT ON IT IS UNKNOWN TO
ALL RIGHT! I GET IT!
IF YOU'D READ THE PETITIONS YOU'D
Uh
ARE YOU DOING THIS TUG?
NOT ME
I COULD BE WRONG ON THIS ONE
THAT'S NOT A PART OF ATLANTEAN HISTORY
TO BE CONTINUED!

CROSSGEN COMICS
17
SEPT
$2.95
$4.60 CAN
www.crossgen.com
CGE
Chuck Dixon
Paul Ryan
Pablo Marcos
Elizabeth Lewis

HE'S REALLY GONE
ARISTOPHANES 'S GONE
WE ALL SAW THAT, VERITYN. BUT THE QUESTION IS

WHERE?
AS MANY TIMES AS WE'VE FACED THE CREATURES THAT COME *OUT* OF THESE PORTALS --
WE'VE LITTLE IDEA WHAT'S ON THE *OTHER* SIDE
YOU'LL NOT ESCAPE *THAT* EASILY FIENDS!
YOUR SCIENCE -- OR DARK *WIZARDRY* -- WILL NOT SAVE YOU FROM ARISTOPHANES --
WARRIOR PRINCE OF *ATLAN!*
WHO WILL DIE *FIRST?*
ARGHZAG!
THOUGH YOUR NUMBERS WILL SOON OVERWHELM ME, I SHALL SEND A *LEGION* OF YOU TO HELL!

SUPPOSING, OF COURSE THAT WE ARE NOT ALREADY IN THE WORLD OF THE DAMNED
COWARDS! WHO WILL FACE ME?
IS THERE NOT ONE AMONG YOU WHO
AH
I SEE THERE IS
A DEMON LORD, eh?
SOME DARK PRINCE OF CORRUPTION?
ONE WORTHY OF MY WRATH?

WHAT NOW? WILL HE COME BACK?

NO ONE COMES BACK

SO WE JUST--

WALK AWAY?

CAPRICIA CAPRICIA GALVANS GONE SOMEMONSTER DRAGGED HIM TO AFTER!

ZEPHYRE! SLOW DOWN!

LAST

IT'S GALVAN! I TRIED TO STOP HIM

BUT HE GOT TOO CLOSE TO A NEGATION PORTAL, AND SOME *THING* PULLED HIM THROUGH!

GALVAN?

WE HAVE TO *DO* SOMETHING CAPRICIA!

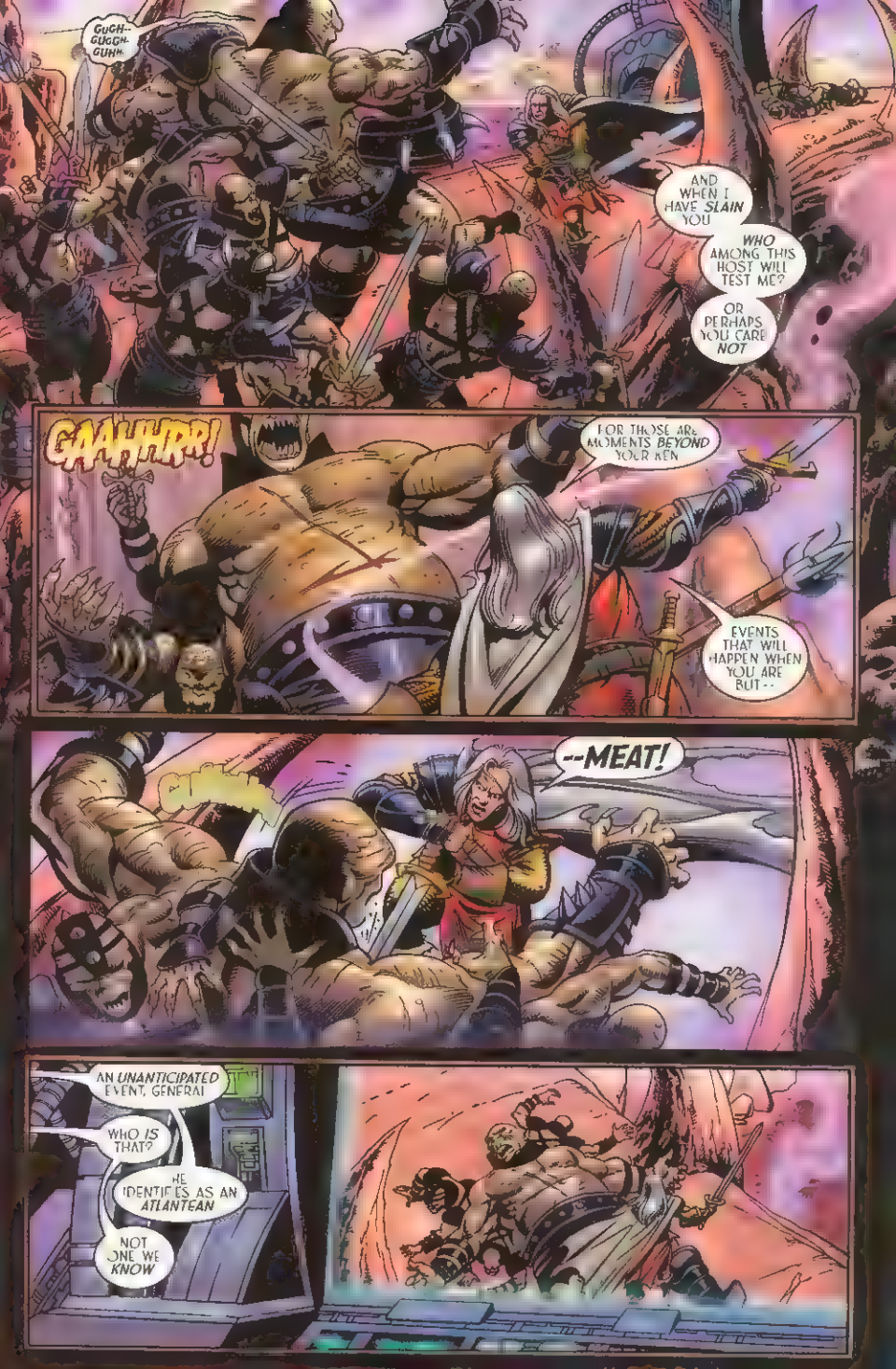
Huh?

Uh DID ANYONE *ELSE* SEE THAT?

MAYBE SOMEONE *IS* DOING SOMETHING ABOUT IT

AND THERE'S NO WAY TO KNOW OR TO HELP
HOW IT IS DETERMINED
YOUR BLACK REIGN ENDS AT THE EDGE OF MY BLADE!
YOU LACK SPEED, WORMBANE!
A FLAW MOST DEADLY!
HAYA!

THIS IS YOUR CHAMPION?
YOUR KNIGHT ERRANT?
ALL GRISTLE AND RAGE
NO GUILE OR SKILL!


GUGH-- GUGGH-- GUHH
AND WHEN I HAVE SLAIN YOU
WHO AMONG THIS HOST WILL TEST ME?
OR PERHAPS YOU CARE NOT
GAAHHR!
FOR THOSE ARE MOMENTS BEYOND YOUR KEN
EVENTS THAT WILL HAPPEN WHEN YOU ARE BUT--
--MEAT!
AN UNANTICIPATED EVENT, GENERAL
WHO IS THAT?
HE IDENTIFIES AS AN ATLANTEAN
NOT ONE WE KNOW

HE CAME THROUGH THE PORTAL WITH THE LAST CHNGROON FORCE
YES, GENERAL SKUPEEDAM
HE FOLLOWED THEM?
THIS HAS NEVER HAPPENED
IS HE HERE TO FOLLOW THE OTHERS? OR TO RESCUE THE ONE ABDUCTED BY THE SITHG'R?
UNKNOWN
A SOLDIER NOT LIKE THE OTHERS
SHALL WE REPORT THIS, GENERAL?
NO NEED HE WILL SOON BE DEAD AND CONSUMED
AND IF NOT? IF HE SURVIVES AND YOU HAVE NOT REPORTED IT?
DAMNATION
OPEN A CHANNEL, THEN

VROOOOOOOOAAAAHHH
A CALL FOR FRESH TROOPS?
ONLY MORE CHAFF FOR MY BLADE
Uh?
A NEW HORROR

SOME LEVIATHAN FROM THE INNARDS OF THIS WORLD.
A BEING FEARED EVEN BY ITS MASTERS
SO, YOU BRING YOUR WORST TO BATTLE ME
YOUR FIERCEST BEAST, A PRODUCT OF NATURE PERVERTED.
PROPHETS OF ME
A GOD OF MONSTERS

DEEP IN MY WARRIOR'S HEART I MUST SEEK FOR STRENGTH
STRENGTH TO STAND BEFORE THIS FIEND
STRENGTH TO OVERCOME IN THIS HOSTILE LAND
LORDS OF HALGEDAE, GRANT ME SPEED
GIVE ME SIGHT AND STEADY MY ARM
AND SHOULD I FALL BEFORE MY ENEMIES--
--LET THEIR VICTORY BE A BITTER ONE

AWAY, FILTHY BEING!
YOU MAY FEED UPON MY FLESH AND GNASH MY BONES TO DUST -
BUT KNOW THAT WITH THIS MEAL COMES A COST!
KRUUK!

H-ARRRGULLPH!
SKEEEEEEEEEEE!
A MAN

ARE YOU OF ATLANTIS?
WHY ARE YOU HERE?
MY BROTHER GAMMID
DO YOU KNOW THE OTHERS? THE ONE CALLED CAPRICIA? THE BOY VERITYN?
THAT THING PULLED ME THROUGH A PORTAL. LOST
SENSED YOUR PRESENCE YOU ARE
OF ATLANTIS AS ARE YOU
YOU HAVE SHOWN US MUCH, ATLANTEAN.

AND WHAT ARE YOU?
I AM A LAWBRINGER.
I AND MY KIND KEEP ORDER HERE.
YOU BRING DISORDER HERE.
YOU ARE UNWELCOME.

I DID NOT ASK YOUR LEAVE CREATURE
I CAME HERE TO VISIT MISERY UPON YOUR WORLD AND I WILL REMAIN AS LONG AS I WISH TO
THAT CANNOT BE ALLOWED.
YOU WILL RETURN TO YOUR UNIVERSE.
ORDER WILL BE RESTORED.
WHY DO YOU THREATEN THE WORLD OF THE ATLANTEANS?
WHAT IS IT YOU SEEK TO GAIN?
THIS ENDS NOW.
YOU WILL GO NOW. THE WAY IS OPEN.
GO AND DO NOT RETURN.
I WILL GO. FOR THE BOY'S SAKE ALONE

BUT SHOULD YOU INTRUDE ON MY WORLD AGAIN
I WILL REVISIT THIS PLACE
AND THE NEXT TIME, I WILL HAVE AN ARMY AT MY BACK
THUS SWEARS ARISTOPHANES OF THE ATLAN
WARRIOR PRIEST OF THE HALCEPAE
HE'S BACK!
GALVAN!

WHA-- WHAT WAS IT LIKE?
FOUL AND BENIGHTED
DID YOU SEE HUMANS THERE?
ONLY DEVILS. A DANK PANTHEON OF EVIL
WHY IS THAT BEAST UNBOUND?
DID I NOT WARN YOU...?
VERITYN SAYS
YOU ACT UPON THE WORDS OF A CHILD?
I HAVE SEEN THE HORRID TRUTH THAT LIES BEYOND THIS PLANE
WE MUST RETURN TO ATLANTIS
WE MUST AWAKEN THE OTHERS
IT IS OUR ONLY HOPE

CROSSGEN comics
18
OCT
$2.95
$4.75 CAN
www.crossgen.com
CGE
CROUX®
Chuck Dixon Steve Epting Rick Magyar Frank D'Armata

THE STORY THUS FAR...

THEY WERE THE ATLANTEANS,

a peaceful civilization of artists and philosophers who used their phenomenal mental and physical skills to build an island utopia. They had but one responsibility: to guide and shepherd Earth's newborn race of *homo sapiens* towards a grand and glorious destiny. But when a mysterious cataclysm plunged Atlantis and its people beneath the waves, six – and only six – were awakened by a nameless stranger one thousand centuries later to find their utopia forgotten and in ruins, their brothers and sisters caught in an unshakeable slumber...and the human race gone, having vanished centuries ago in the Transition, a passage to a higher plane of existence.

Both the legendary warrior Aristophanes and the alien known as Thraxis battled the most recent Negation invasion to a standstill. Determined to seize total victory over Atlantis' enemies, Aristophanes pursued the invaders through their dimensional portal and into the Negation Universe. There he defeated Negation hordes and rescued Galvan, who had been abducted earlier. Both Atlanteans were sent back to their own universe by a Negation Lawbringer. Upon returning, Aristophanes vowed to awaken the sleeping citizens of Atlantis.

The mental and physical abilities of the Atlanteans are identical in nature but not in application. Capricia and her teammates have each channeled their abilities into different skills.

CAPRICIA	DANIK	TUG	ZEPHYRE	GALVAN	VERITYN
Shapeshifter and empath	Keeper of the secrets	Telekinetic strongman	Hypermetabolic intellectual	Manipulator of the electromagnetic spectrum	Seer of all truths

Crux® *Vol* 1 Issue 10 OCTOBER 2002 FIRST PRINTING Published by CG Entertainment Inc Office of publication 4023 Tampa Road Suite 2400 Oldsmar Florida 34677 **Crux® CrossGen® CrossGen Comics® CrossGeneration® CrossGeneration Comics®** and the **CrossGen sigil®** are registered trademarks of CrossGeneration Comics Inc. The **CG Entertainment logo™** and all prominent **Crux®** characters and images are Trademark and Copyright 2002 CrossGeneration Comics Inc. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. The stories incidents and characters in this publication are fictional. Any similarities to persons living or dead are purely coincidental. With the exception of artwork used for review purposes none of the contents of this book may be reproduced in any form without the express written consent of CrossGeneration Comics Inc. PRINTED IN CANADA.

CGE™

Mr.X®

I AGREE TO THIS UNDER *PROTEST*
IF WE DON'T LET *THRAXIS* PILOT THIS SHIP THEN WHO'S GOING TO *DO* IT?
YOU, ARISTOPHANES?
POWERS UP ENGINES TO MAX
I *THINK*

HOLD ON

WE RE BREAKING FREE

ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND YEARS AND THIS CRAFT STILL *WORKS*

BUT ON WHAT SCIENTIFIC PRINCIPLE?

WHAT DO WE *KNOW* OF THIS CREATURE?

LOOK, YOU SAID IT'S *URGENT* THAT WE WAKE THE OTHER ATLANTEANS NOW

TUG'S CONVINCED THERE'S TECHNOLOGY ON THIS SHIP WE CAN USE TO *MAKE* THAT HAPPEN

HE WANTS YOU TO BACK *OFF* THOSE CONTROLS TUG

THAT, I UNDERSTOOD

WE'RE CLEAR!
THIS IS GREAT! A BIG ALIEN SPACESHIP THAT'S ALL OURS!
ON TO ATLANTIS!
Uh, ALL RIGHT
YOU'RE THE CAPTAIN BIG GUY
WHAT DO YOU KNOW OF THRAX'S?
VERY LITTLE, CAPRICIA
WILL TELL ME THE LITTLE YOU KNOW
I MUST REST

TELL ME SOMETHING
THE STARSHIP WAS A THREAT TO MY PEOPLE THERE WAS A BATTLE
ATLANTIS SURVIVED AND I HAD A CENTURIES-LONG SLEEP
WHAT WAS IN THESE CONDUITS?
WAS IT THRAXIS MASTERS?
HORRORS
HORRORS LONG DEAD AND FORGOTTEN
AND NOW I REST

STAY AWAY!
GALVAN!
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT? I WAS WORRIED
A PLANET OF EVIL MONSTERS LIKE THE ONES WHO ATTACK US AGAIN AND AGAIN
BUT A UNIVERSE FULL OF THEM WORLDS AND WORLDS
YOU'RE SAFE NOW ARISTOPHANES BROUGHT YOU BACK
THAT'S WHERE THE LAST HUMANS WENT
WE SENT GAMMID THERE
I HAVE [illegible] BACK
YOU CAN'T YOU WOULD HAVE DIED
MY BROTHER IS THERE!
IT'S BEEN TOO LONG, GALVAN
GAMMID IS PROBABLY
HE COULD BE
DEAD

NO! I CAN'T BELIEVE THAT HE SPOKE TO ME
A MONSTER SPOKE TO YOU TO DRAW YOU TO THE NEGATION
WAIT
Huh?
WHERE THE HELL ARE WE?
Oh, THAT
WE'RE HEADING BACK TO ATLANTIS IN AN ALIEN SPACESHIP
I KNOW WE'RE DOING THIS, VERITYN, BUT I'M NOT SURE HOW

YOU COMMUNICATE *TELEPATHICALLY* WITH HIM?
IT'S MORE *COMPLICATED* THAN THAT, TUG
YOUR MESSAGES TO *ME* SEEM SIMPLE ENOUGH
THRAXIS THINKS *ONLY* IN PICTURES AND FEELINGS
I HAVE TO RE-THINK IT ALL IN *WORDS* FOR YOU
SO, IS HE *DANGEROUS*?
I DON'T *THINK* SO
HE SEEMED LIKE IT WHEN HE *ATTACKED* ME
HE WAS *FRIGHTENED*
HE WAS FRIGHTENED
I COULDN'T *REACH* HIM THRAXIS IS FROM A *SLAVE* RACE.
HIS MASTERS CONTROLLED HIM AND THE OTHERS *TELEPATHICALLY* HE LEARNED TO SHIELD HIS THOUGHTS
BUT HE LETS *ME* READ HIM
SOMETIMES I WONDER, THOUGH--

IF THERE'S NOT SOMETHING HE'S STILL HIDING
CAPRICIA -
QUIETLY ZEPHYRE
Oh.
IS HE REALLY THE SAME MAN WE READ ABOUT IN HISTORY LESSONS?
I BELIEVE SO. THE SAVIOR OF ATLANTIS
BUT THE STORY IS AN OLD ONE. SO MANY DETAILS LOST TO TIME. NO MENTION OF SPACESHIPS OR ALIEN BEASTS
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?
THAT WE TRUST THE HERE AND NOW AND NOT AN ANCIENT MYTHOLOGY
WE KEEP A WARY EYE ON ARISTOPHANES
AT LEAST UNTIL I'M CERTAIN HIS MOTIVES ARE PURE

YEAH!

IT'S ATLANTIS!

THERE'S THE MHARQUAD GARDENS

AND KOHLERIDGE HILL

ATALAN DOME AND

WE SEE THEM, VERITYN

THIS IS SO GREAT!

THIS IS SO...

THIS IS SO BORING

IT'S GOING TO TAKE *TIME*, VERITYN

CAN'T YOU FIND *SOMETHING* TO DO?

LIKE *WHAT*, PRICIA?

I CAN'T TALK TO TEAL OR THRAXIS. THEY'RE *BUSY*

THEN JUST TRY TO STAY OUT OF THE *WAY*

BUT NOT *TOO* FAR. YOU'RE *STILL* MY EYES, VERI

HOW *MANY* ATLANTEANS YET SLEEP?

OVER A THOUSAND. SOME CHAMBERS WERE *DAMAGED* WHEN THE CITY SANK

WE *TRIED* TO WAKE THEM UP, BUT IT DIDN'T WORK

AND THESE FEW DID NOT SURRENDER TO TRANSITION. HOW WERE THEY *CHOSEN* TO REMAIN?

THEY *ELECTED* TO STAY BASED ON THEIR TALENTS AND THE STRENGTH OF THEIR *CONVICTIONS*

YOU KNOW, TO GUIDE THE HUMANS TO THEIR *DESTINY*

THEIR DESTINY APPEARS TO HAVE LEFT *YOU* BEHIND AS WEL.

AND WHAT ARE THESE *TALENTS* YOU SPEAK OF?
IT'S ALL HERE IN THE *PROFILE* OF EACH SLEEPER
PERSONAL HISTORY EDUCATION AREA OF *EXPERTISE*
HM
TOO MUCH TOO *FAST*, GALVAN
WHAT ARE YOU *TALKING* ABOUT ZEPH?
WHAT DO WE *KNOW* ABOUT THIS GUY?
I KNOW HE CAME OVER TO THE NEGATION SIDE AND SAVED MY *LIFE*
HE'S KIND OF *SPOOKY*
HE'S ONE OF *US*, ZEPH
CAPRICIA SAYS
SO, WHAT'D I *MISS*?
UH?
GEROMI! I *FORGOT* ABOUT YOU!
TELL ME SOMETHING I *DON'T* KNOW
BUT I MANAGED TO RESCUE MY *OWN* SELF THANK YOU

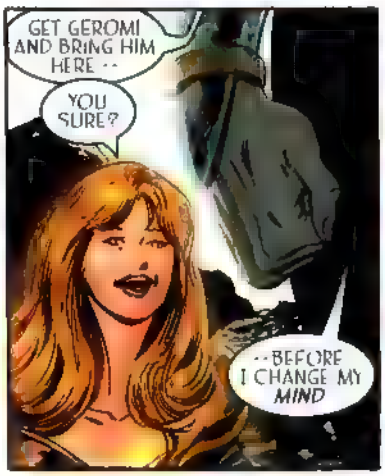
I'LL LEAVE YOU TWO TO CATCH UP
YOU DON'T HAVE TO GO, GALVAN
SO, YOU GUYS ARE BACK IN ATLANTIS
WHAT IS IT YOU WANT?
JUST WANTED YOU TO KNOW I MET SOME CLOWNS WHO WERE WEIRD EVEN BY NEGATION STANDARDS
THEY HAD STARS WHERE THEIR FACES SHOULD BE
I HAD TO KIND OF BLOW UP TERRA COGNITO BASE TO LOSE THEM
AND YOUR POINT IS COMING WHEN ?
I HAVE NOWHERE TO GO. CAN I HANG OUT WITH YOU GUYS A WHILE?
SURE
GIVE ME YOUR LOCATION
ALL RIGHT!

I KNEW I COULD COUNT ON YOU GUYS
HE CAN DRIVE THE BIG SHIP
BUT HE DOESN'T KNOW WHAT MAKES THEM WORK
SO WHEN THE MASTERS SHIP NEEDED REPAIRS WHO DID THEM?
THRAXIS AND HIS FRIENDS
SO HE DOES KNOW WHAT THIS GEAR DOES
NOPE THE MASTERS WOULD DIRECT THEM
LIKE YOU'D TRAIN AN ANIMAL
THEY KNOW WHAT THEY'RE DOING BUT THEY DON'T KNOW WHY
THE TECHNOLOGY SEEMS CLOSE TO ATLANTEAN SCIENCE
THERE'S A POSSIBILITY A LOT OF OUR UNDERSTANDING CAME FROM THIS ALIEN SHIP
CAN YOU MAKE IT WORK?
NO WAY OF KNOWING, CAPRICIA THIS THING COULD BE A STAR DRIVE OR A WASHING MACHINE
ARE YOU HEALING, TUG?
YOU TELL ME
I WON'T NEED VERITYN TO SEE FOR ME
BECAUSE SOME OF MY SIGHT IS RETURNING

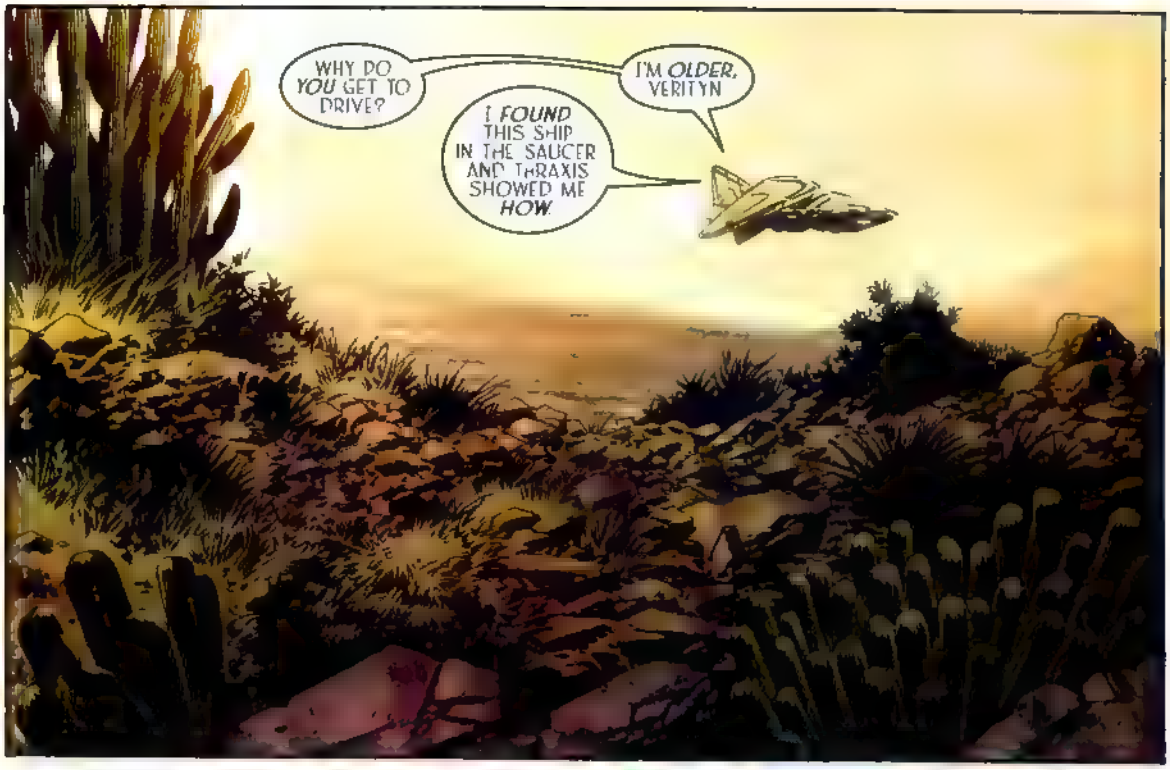
DON'T PUSH YOURSELF TOO HARD
THEY'VE SLEPT ALL THIS TIME A FEW DAYS MORE WON'T MATTER
YOU'RE VERY WRONG ABOUT THAT
YOU HAVE AN OPINION?
ONLY A CERTAINTY
IT'S SHEER FORTUNE THAT'S KEPT YOU FROM ANNIHILATION
AN ENTIRE UNIVERSE OF BEINGS WHO WISH ONLY TO CONQUER THIS WORLD EXISTS AN EYEBLINK FROM US
AND WHAT HAVE YOU DONE EXCEPT OFFER DISCOURSE AND OPINIONS ?
AND WHAT SHOULD WE HAVE DONE, ARISTOPHANES?
AWAKENED THE OTHERS! STRENGTH IN NUMBERS IS YOUR ONLY HOPE
IT MAY ALREADY BE TOO LATE

WE'VE TRIED EVERYTHING WE *KNOW* TO STOP THE NEGATION'S INCURSIONS
APPARENTLY IT'S NOT *ENOUGH*
HE'S *RIGHT*. YOU HAVEN'T *SEEN* THE OTHER SIDE PRICIA. WE *HAVE*
EXPERTS, RIGHT?
THEN *YOU* MAKE THE DECISIONS. I'M GOING TO TAKE MY *OWN* ADVICE AND GET SOME *SLEEP*
WATCH YOUR *STEP*
YOUR LOYALTY IS *MISPLACED*. SHE IS THE REASON YOU HAVE *FAILED*
SHE'S THE REASON WE'RE *ALIVE*, YOU OLD FOOL

AND NO ONE HERE IS *FORGETTING* THAT
CAPRICIA, I GOT A CALL FROM GEROMI AND HE WANTS ME TO--
GO

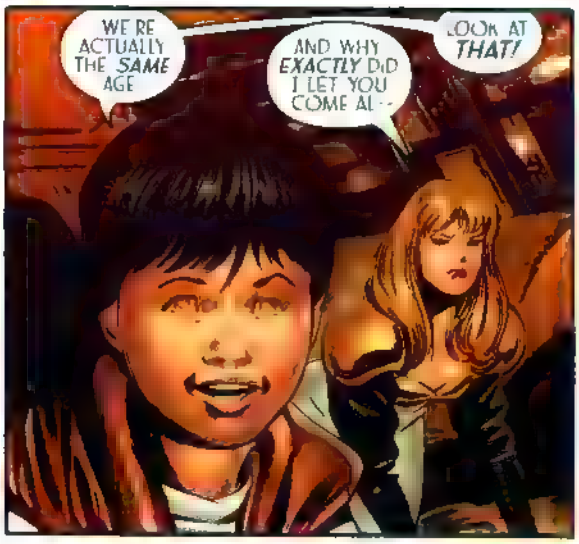

GET GEROMI AND BRING HIM HERE --
YOU SURE?
--BEFORE I CHANGE MY *MIND*

CAN *I* COME?
Yeh


WHY DO *YOU* GET TO DRIVE?
I'M *OLDER*, VERITYN
I *FOUND* THIS SHIP IN THE SAUCER AND THRAXIS SHOWED ME *HOW*

Y KNOW, YOU'RE REALLY *NOT* OLDER THAN ME ZEPH
REALLY
STATISTICALLY, I MEAN
EXPLAIN

WE WERE ALL ASLEEP FOR ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND YEARS
THAT MEANS WE'RE *ALL* ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND PLUS YEARS OLD
THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN YOUR AGE AND MINE FALLS BELOW POINT ZERO PERCENT, SO--


WE'RE ACTUALLY THE *SAME* AGE
AND WHY *EXACTLY* DID I LET YOU COME AL--
LOOK AT *THAT!*

THIS IS GREAT!

WHAT'S IT SUPPOSED TO BE?

GEROM! SAID IT'S THE AMERICAN WEST, VERITYN

AND ALL THOSE PEOPLE AND THOSE ANIMALS--

HORSES THEY'RE CALLED HORSES

I GUESS THEY'RE PROJECTIONS OR ANDROIDS OR

DIXONS DURABLE GOODS

JAIL

SHERIFF

JEL

OVER HERE! ZEPHYRE!

IT'S GEROM!

YOU GUYS DECIDED TO COME!

JUST TWO OF US. WE'RE SUPPOSED TO BRING YOU BACK TO ATLANTIS WITH US.

I LOVE THIS PLACE!

SEEMS LIKE FOREVER SINCE I SAW YOU, ZEPHYRE!

WELL, WE REALLY HAVE TO--

NO! STAY A LITTLE BIT. THERE'S SOMEONE I WANT YOU TO MEET

YEAH, ZEPH. LET'S LOOK AROUND!

OH KAY

BUT FIRST WE HAVE TO GET YOU DRESSED RIGHT!

THEY'RE HERE. TWO OF THEM, ANYWAY
YOU UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU ARE TO DO?
WE PROVIDE THEM WITH A CHALLENGE, DANIK
AND WE HAVE A LITTLE FUN

STORYTELLERS

Chuck **DIXON**
WRITER

Steve **EPTING**
PENCILER

Rick **MAGYAR**
INKER

Frank **D'ARMATA**
COLORIST

Dave **LANPHEAR**
LETTERER

Mark Alessi
PUBLISHER & CEO

Gina M. Villa
CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER

Michael A. Beattie
CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

Tony Panaccio
VICE PRESIDENT
PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT

Chris Oarr
DIRECTOR OF
SALES & MARKETING

James Breitbeil
DIRECTOR OF
MARKETING & DISTRIBUTION

Ian M. Feller
DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE
COMMUNICATIONS

Courtland Whited
MIS DIRECTOR

Gabo Mendoza
INTERNET SERVICES DIRECTOR

Charles Decker
DIRECTOR OF
PRODUCTION CONTROL

Brian M. Soltis
CONTROLLER

Brandon Peterson
VICE PRESIDENT
SPECIAL PROJECTS

Barbara Kesel
HEAD WRITER

Bart Sears
ART DIRECTOR

Pam Davies
PRODUCTION DIRECTOR

Sylvia Bretz
PRODUCTION SUPERVISOR

Janet Bechtle
Randy Martin
PRODUCTION ASSISTANTS

Michelle Pugliese
FREELANCE
COORDINATOR

CGE

19 NOV | $2.95 $4.75 CAN

www.crossgen.com

CROSSGEN®

Chuck Dixon Steve Epting Rick Magyar Frank D'Armata

THE STORY THUS FAR...

THEY WERE THE ATLANTEANS,

a peaceful civilization of artists and philosophers who used their phenomenal mental and physical skills to build an island utopia. They had but one responsibility: to guide and shepherd Earth's newborn race of *homo sapiens* towards a grand and glorious destiny. But when a mysterious cataclysm plunged Atlantis and its people beneath the waves, six – and only six – were awakened by a nameless stranger one thousand centuries later to find their utopia forgotten and in ruins, their brothers and sisters caught in an unshakeable slumber...and the human race gone, having vanished centuries ago in the Transition, a passage to a higher plane of existence.

With the help of Thraxis, the Atlanteans bring the ancient spacecraft of the Masters home to Atlantis. Tug hopes to use alien technology to reawaken the rest of their slumbering brethren. Meanwhile, Zephyre and Verityn find Geromi and what begins as an adventurous lark turns to terror...

The mental and physical abilities of the Atlanteans are identical in nature but not in application. Capricia and her teammates have each channeled their ab[illegible]

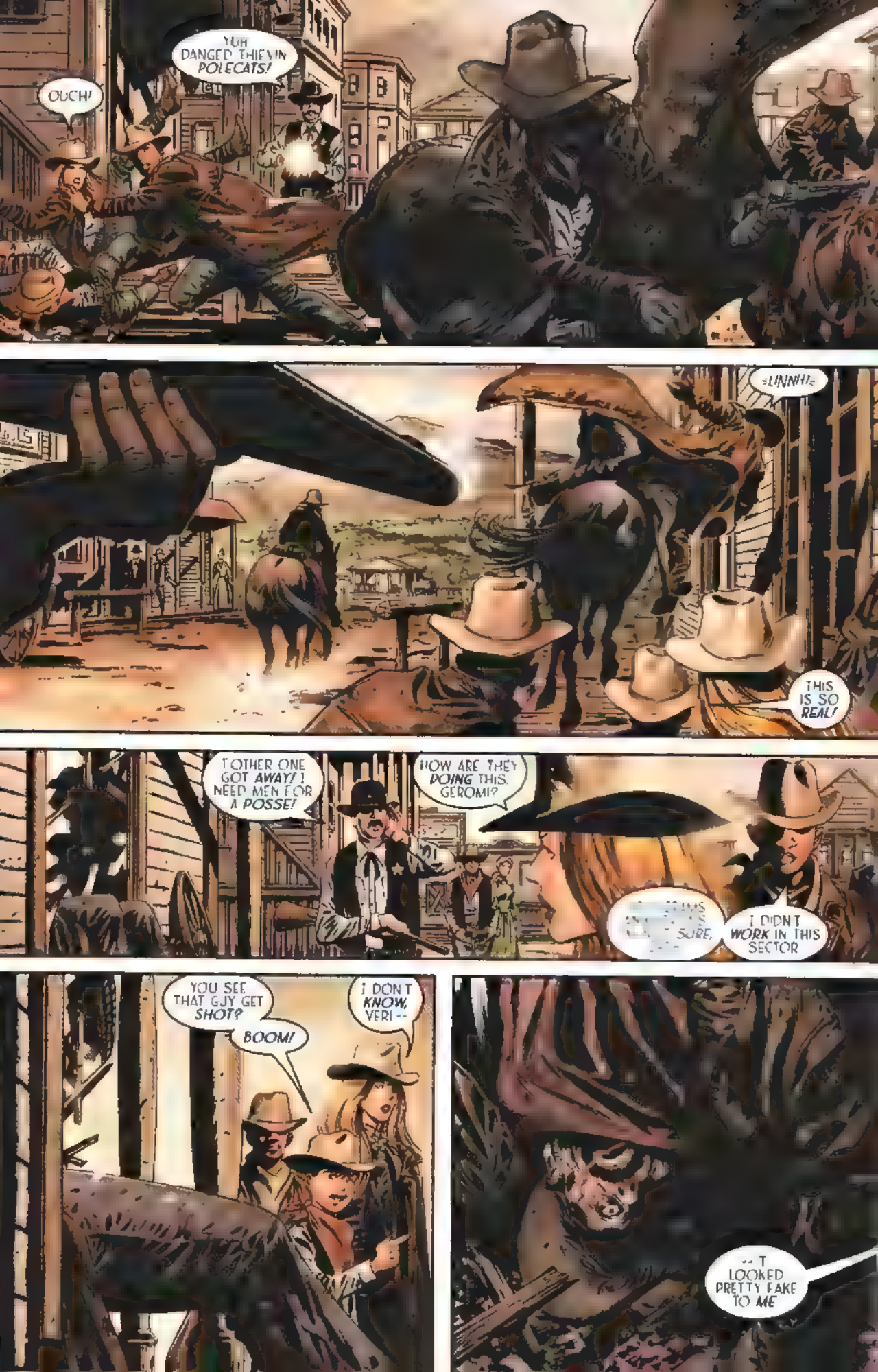
CAPRICIA	DANIK	TUG	ZEPHYRE	GALVAN	VERITYN
Shapeshifter and empath	Keeper of the secrets	Telekinetic strongman	Hypermetabolic intellectual	Ma[illegible] electromagn[illegible]	[illegible]eer of all truths

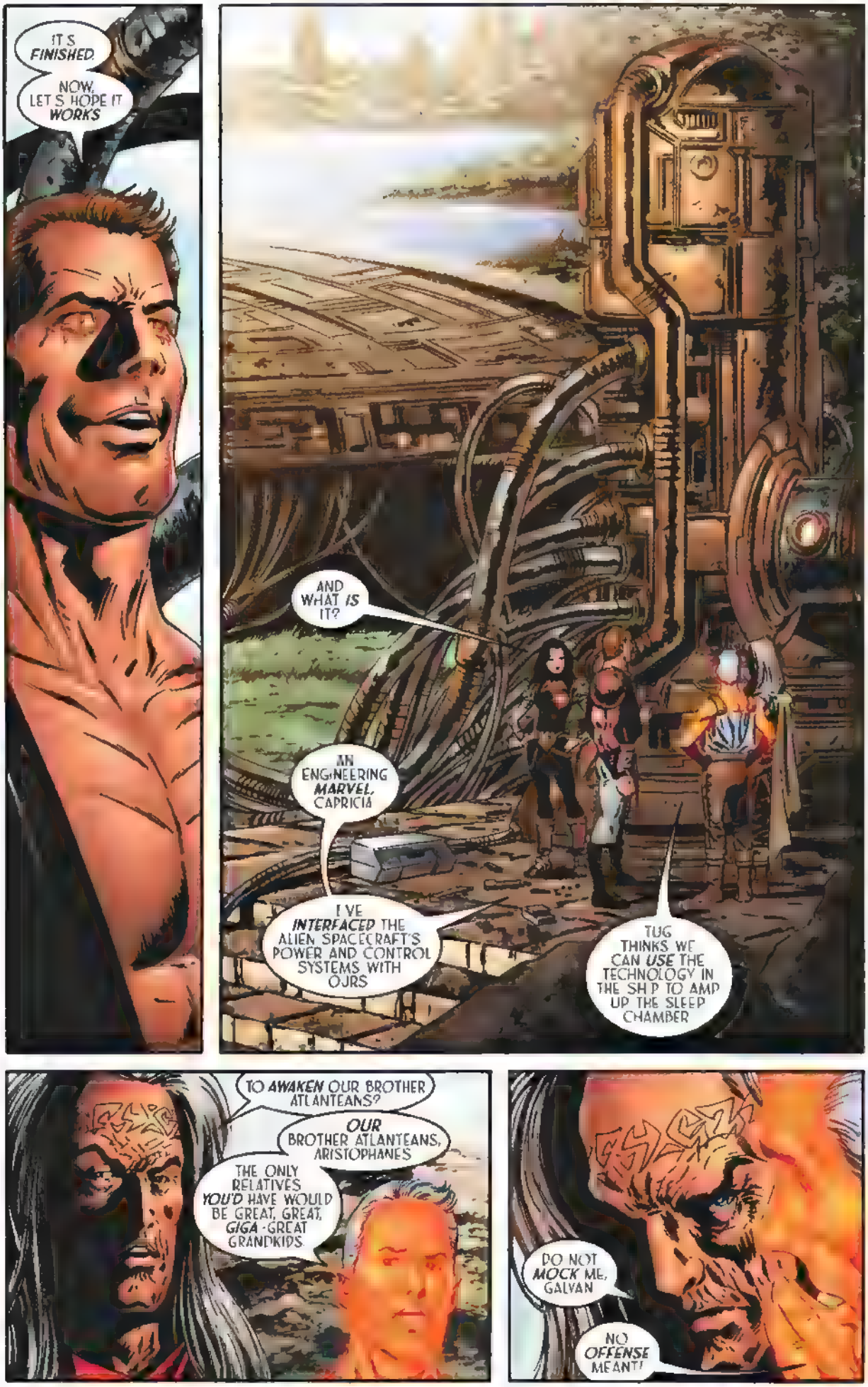
Crux® Vol. 1 Issue 19 NOVEMBER 2002 FIRST PRINTING Published by CG Entertainment Inc. Office of publication: 4023 Tampa Road, Suite 2400, Oldsmar, Florida 34677. Crux® CrossGen® CrossGen Comics® CrossGeneration® CrossGeneration Comics® and the CrossGen sigil® are registered trademarks of CrossGeneration Comics, Inc. The CG Entertainment logo™ and all prominent characters and images are Trademark and Copyright 2002 CrossGeneration Comics, Inc. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. The stories, incidents and characters in this publication are [illegible] Any similarities to persons living or dead are purely coincidental. With the exception of artwork used for review purposes, none [illegible] this book may be reproduced in any form without the express written consent of CrossGeneration Comics, Inc. PRINTED IN [illegible]

SO, HOW DO WE LOOK?
IS THIS *REALLY* HOW PEOPLE DRESSED, GEROMI?

I GUESS IT'S ACCURATE VERITYN
THE NORTH AMERICAN WEST WAS NINE HUNDRED CENTURIES AGO. I THINK MOST OF THESE IMAGES CAME FROM MOVIES
GENERAL STORE
MOVERS?
MOVIES, VERITYN
NOW WE HAVE TO GET OURSELVES SOME HORSES
WHAT FOR?
TO RIDE 'EM ZEPHYRE
RIDE?
ANIMALS?
WE'RE A LONG WAY FROM
ROBBERY AT THE BANK!

HEY!
I CAN'T SEE WHAT'S GOIN' ON!


OUCH!
YUH DANGED THIEVIN POLECATS!
SUNNH!!
THIS IS SO REAL!
T'OTHER ONE GOT AWAY! I NEED MEN FOR A POSSE!
HOW ARE THEY DOING THIS, GEROMI?
SURE,
I DIDN'T WORK IN THIS SECTOR
YOU SEE THAT GUY GET SHOT?
BOOM!
I DON'T KNOW, VERI--
-- T LOOKED PRETTY FAKE TO ME


IT'S FINISHED.
NOW, LET'S HOPE IT WORKS
AND WHAT IS IT?
AN ENGINEERING MARVEL, CAPRICIA
I'VE INTERFACED THE ALIEN SPACECRAFT'S POWER AND CONTROL SYSTEMS WITH OURS
TUG THINKS WE CAN USE THE TECHNOLOGY IN THE SHIP TO AMP UP THE SLEEP CHAMBER
TO AWAKEN OUR BROTHER ATLANTEANS?
OUR BROTHER ATLANTEANS, ARISTOPHANES
THE ONLY RELATIVES YOU'D HAVE WOULD BE GREAT, GREAT, GIGA-GREAT GRANDKIDS
DO NOT MOCK ME, GALVAN
NO OFFENSE MEANT!

WE HAVE TO BE PATIENT IT'S GOING TO TAKE SOME FINE TUNING BEFORE WE CAN RUN A TEST
ALL THIS WORKS IN THEORY, BUT IN PRACTICE
WE ALL HAVE FAITH IN YOU TUG
CAN YOU STICK AROUND GALVAN? I MIGHT NEED SOME HELP
SURE
WHERE IS THE BEAST?
TUG DIDN'T NEED ANY HEAVY LIFTING, SO THRAXIS IS OFF ON HIS OWN
THAT CREATURE IS NOT TO BE TRUSTED
SO FAR HE'S BEHAVED HIMSELF
AND I HAD THE FEELING HE NEEDED SOME WILD TIME

HE HASN'T EATEN SINCE TUG AND VERI WOKE HIM UP.
THIS IS SO-- GREAT!

I THOUGHT YOU'D LIKE IT ZEPH

I'M GLAD YOU TALKED US INTO STAYING FOR A WHILE, GEROMI

WHERE ARE WE *GOIN'?*

JUST RIDING

I THOUGHT YOU GUYS WOULD LIKE TO *CAMP OUT* ON THE LONE PRAIRIE

THIS IS *NICE*

YOU'RE NOT *BORED?*

NO. I'M HAVING *LOTS* OF FUN

YEAH

BUT THERE'S *SOMETHING* ON YOUR MIND

DID YOU EVER SPEND *TIME* WITH SOMEONE AND NEVER THINK ABOUT HOW YOU *FEEL* ABOUT THEM?

THEN SUDDENLY *→WHAM!←* YOU'RE IN LOVE?

YOU KNOW WHAT I'M *TALKING* ABOUT THEN?

EXACTLY, ZEPH

IT'S *CRAZY,* RIGHT?

NOT *THAT* CRAZY

I *THOUGHT* I LOVED GAMMID BUT NOW I THINK IT'S *GALVAN*

GALVAN?

HELLO THE CAMP

WHEW?

SAW YOUR FIRE WE BEEN RIDIN HARD ALL DAY
THE KID AND I WOULDN'T MIND A BIT OF COFFEE
Uh. COME AND SIT A WHILE
PECULIAR PLACE TO BED DOWN FOLKS
SO CLOSE TO THEM DRUMS
WHAT DRUMS?
THE DRUMS
Oh
HEAR 'EM NOW?
LOTS OF DRUMS
TUM TUM TAH TUM
TUM TAH TUM TUM TU

Uh WHAT DO THE DRUMS MEAN?
INDIANS. A BIG ENCAMPMENT CLOSE BY
THE DRUMS ARE CALLING THEM TO WAR
EXCELLENT AND YOU GUYS ARE--?
THAT'S THE SUFFERIN' KID
MY HANDLE'S YELLOWHAIR
YOU WERE RIGHT, GEROM!! THIS IS FUN!
YEP
FUN
TONS OF FUN
JUST TELL ME WHERE YOU WANT IT

THERE!
THAT ENOUGH?
I'M MORE WORR ED IT WAS TOO MUCH, GALVAN
THIS MACHINERY'S NO GOOD IF YOU SLAG IT
THE ALIEN SHIP UTILIZES A FUSION POWER SOURCE KIND OF LIKE OURS
I'M HOPING I CAN USE THIS TURBINE TO MODERATE THE FLOW FROM THE SHIP'S ENGINES TO MORE CLOSELY MATCH ATLANTIS GRID
TALK TALK TALK
FIRE IT UP, TUG!
ALL RIGHT
YOW!
HUNH

YOU DID IT!
WE DID IT
WE'RE BACK ON LINE A FEW ADJUSTMENTS--
--AND WE'VE GOT COMPANY FOR DINNER RIGHT?
FUNNY--
-I WAS CONCENTRATING SO MUCH ON THE PROBLEM I DIDN'T THINK ABOUT THE OBJECTIVE
WE'LL BE SEEING A LOT OF OLD FRIENDS SOON
WE'LL HAVE A LOT TO TELL THEM
JUST OVER THIS RIDGE-LINE

WOW

ARE THOSE --

INDIANS

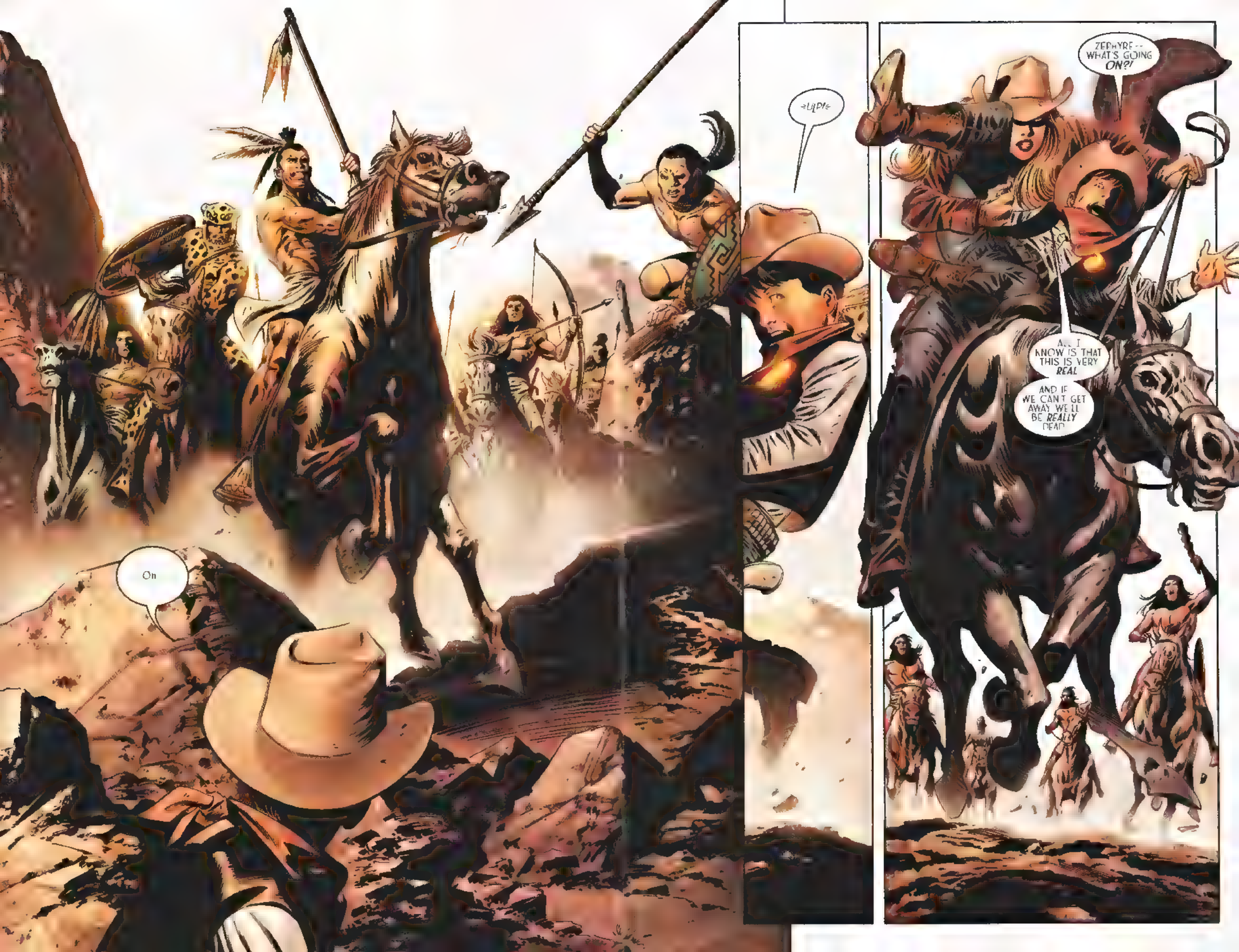
MILES AND *MILES* OF INDIANS

WHAT *TRIBE?*

AZTECS, I RECKON

I GOTTA TELL TUG ABOUT THIS! HE'S GONNA BE SO JEALOUS!
YOU READY, KID?
I WAS BORN READY, YELLOWHAIR
THEN LET'S GET THIS PARTY STARTED
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
STARTIN' UP A HOORAW, MISSY!
LOOK'T 'EM JUMP!
I KNOW THEY'RE JUST FAKE PEOPLE BUT--
THEY'RE NOT FAKE! THEY'RE REAL!
WHAT?
THESE TWO CREATED THEM! THEY CREATED THE TOWNSPEOPLE AND THE HORSES AND--

YOU YOUNG UNS BETTER GET A MOVE ON!
WE STIRRED UP A HORNET'S NEST OF THOSE SACRIFICIN SAVAGES!
WHAT'S GOING ON HERE GEROMI?
I RAN INTO THEM A FEW DAYS AGO. THEY SAID THEY KNEW YOU AND WANTED TO SURPRISE YOU
CAPRICIA, TUG--THEY KNEW ALL YOUR NAMES
DID THEY MENTION DANIK?
I THINK SO.
DANIK?
RUN!
I THOUGHT DANIK WAS LOST
LONG STORY, VERI


ZEPHYRE -- WHAT'S GOING ON?!
ALL I KNOW IS THAT THIS IS VERY REAL
AND IF WE CAN'T GET AWAY WE'LL BE REALLY DEAD
=ULP!=
Oh

THOSE TWO ARE LEADING THE INDIANS BACK TO TOWN.
THOSE POOR PEOPLE...
THEY'LL BE SLAUGHTERED.
BUT IF THEY'RE NOT REALLY REAL...
DO YOU WANT TO TAKE THAT CHANCE?
TAKE THE--THE--ROPES, VERI!
Huh?
AND THIS HORSE IS TOO DAMNED SLOW
WHOAAA

ARE YOU CERTAIN THIS IS WHAT DANIK HAD IN MIND, YALA?
HE ASKED US TO TEST THEM, GANNISH.
WHAT IF THEY DO NOT SURVIVE THIS TEST?
THEN THEY'VE FAILED!
BUT I DON'T MIND GIVING THEM AN EDGE
WHAT ARE YOU DOING, YALA?
TAKING A HEROIC STAND AGAINST IMPOSSIBLE ODDS
YOU'RE ENJOYING THIS, AREN'T YOU?
INTENSELY
YEEEE-HAH!

I THINK IT'S TIME WE CALLED IN THE CAVALRY, VERI
WHICH MOVE IS THAT IN, GEROMI?
ALL OF THEM
GEROMI?
LISTEN FAST, CAPRICIA!
SOMETHING REALLY WEIRD IS HAPPENING HERE
A NEGATION INCURSION?
WEIRDER
WHERE'S VERITYN AND ZEPHYRE?
THEY'RE OKAY FOR NOW
BUT IF YOU WERE PLANNING A VACATION, I WISH YOU'D TAKE IT HERE AND NOW

STORYTELLERS

Chuck DIXON
WRITER

Steve EPTING
PENCILER

Rick MAGYAR
INKER

Frank D'ARMATA
COLORIST

Dave LANPHEAR
LETTERER

Mark Alessi
PUBLISHER & CEO

Gina M. Villa
CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER

Michael A. Beattie
CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

Jennifer Hernandez
GENERAL COUNSEL

Tony Panaccio
VICE PRESIDENT
PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT

Chris Oarr
VICE PRESIDENT
SALES & MARKETING

James Breitbeil
DIRECTOR
MARKETING & DISTRIBUTION

Ian M. Feller
DIRECTOR
CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS

Courtland Whited
MIS DIRECTOR

Gabo Mendoza
INTERNET SERVICES DIRECTOR

Charles Decher
DIRECTOR
PRODUCTION CONTROL

Brian M. Soltis
CONTROLLER

Brandon Peterson
VICE PRESIDENT
SPECIAL PROJECTS

Barbara Kesel
HEAD WRITER

Bart Sears
ART DIRECTOR

Pam Davies
VICE PRESIDENT
PRODUCTION

Sylvia Bretz
PRODUCTION SUPERVISOR
ADVERTISING/WEB

Erin Flanagan
WEB DESIGNER

Janet Bechtle
PRODUCTION SUPERVISOR
BOOKS

Randy Martin
PRODUCTION DESIGNER

Michelle Pugliese
FREELANCE COORDINATOR

CGE
20
DEC
$2.95
$4.75 CAN
www.crossgen.com
CROSSED
Chuck Dixon
Steve Epting
Rick Magyar
Frank D'Armata

THE STORY THUS FAR...

THEY WERE THE ATLANTEANS,

a peaceful civilization of artists and philosophers who used their phenomenal mental and physical skills to build an island utopia. They had but one responsibility: to guide and shepherd Earth's newborn race of *homo sapiens* towards a grand and glorious destiny. But when a mysterious cataclysm plunged Atlantis and its people beneath the waves, six – and only six – were awakened by a nameless stranger one thousand centuries later to find their utopia forgotten and in ruins, their brothers and sisters caught in an unshakeable slumber...and the human race gone, having vanished centuries ago in the Transition, a passage to a higher plane of existence.

Zephyre and Verityn have joined Geromi and a pair of mysterious strangers in a section of theme-park Earth dedicated to the Old West. But the young Atlanteans are unaware that the godlike Gannish and Yala are here as well. Back in Atlantis, Tug and Galvan are working with alien technology to re-awaken the remaining Atlanteans in stasis. Aristophanes takes an unusual amount of interest in this procedure.

The mental and physical abilities of the Atlanteans are identical in nature but not in application. Capricia and her teammates have each channeled their abilities into different skills:

CAPRICIA	DANIK	TUG	ZEPHYRE	GALVAN	VERITYN
Shapeshifter and empath	Keeper of the secrets	Telekinetic strongman	Hypermetabolic intellectual	Manipulator of the electromagnetic spectrum	Seer of all truths

02011

8 00155 98135 9

Crux® Vol. 1 Issue 20, DECEMBER 2002. FIRST PRINTING. Published by CG Entertainment Inc. Office of publication: 4023 Tampa Road, Suite 2400, Oldsmar, Florida 34677. **Crux® CrossGen® CrossGen Comics®, CrossGeneration®, CrossGeneration Comics®** and the **CrossGen sigil®** are registered trademarks of CrossGeneration Comics, Inc. The **CG Entertainment logo™** and all prominent **Crux®** characters and images are Trademark and Copyright 2002 CrossGeneration Comics, Inc. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. The stories, incidents and characters in this publication are fictional. Any similarities to persons living or dead are purely coincidental. With the exception of artwork used for review purposes, none of the contents of this book may be reproduced in any form without the express written consent of CrossGeneration Comics, Inc. PRINTED IN CANADA.

CGE

YALA, WE'RE *OUT-NUMBERED.*
I *KNOW,* GANNISH
WE ARE ARMED ONLY WITH *PRIMITIVE* WEAPONS.
YEP.
WE WILL MOST CERTAINLY *DIE*
UH-HUH

ISN'T IT WONDERFUL?

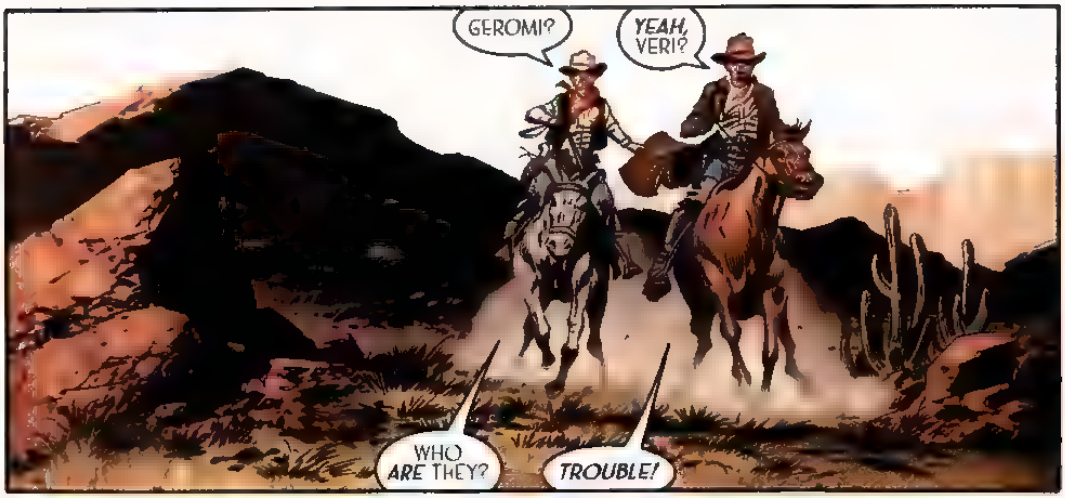
I MEAN, HAVE YOU EVER FELT MORE ALIVE?

I SUPPOSE

UNH! UNH!

I --
>UNH<
>UNH<
--SUPPOSE.

-- ISN'T IT WONDERFUL?
I MEAN, HAVE YOU EVER FELT MORE ALIVE?


GEROMI?
YEAH, VERI?
WHO ARE THEY?
TROUBLE!

THEY'RE SOME KIND OF FREAKS THEY GOT INTO MY MIND AND I WAS LIKE A PLAYING PIECE ON A BOARD
THOSE PEOPLE THESE HORSES THEY CREATED THEM, NOT TERRA COGNITO
THEY'RE BAD, BAD NEWS

"IF WE'RE LUCKY, WE'VE SEEN THE LAST OF THEM

I JUST HOPE ZEPHYRE GETS TO THAT TOWN IN TIME TO WARN EVERYONE"

WHOA!
HEYEVERYBODY THERESAWHOLE BUNCHOF--
SLOW DOWN ZEDH SLOW DOWN
THERE'S A WHOLE BUNCH OF --BAD PEOPLE COMING THIS WAY!
THAT RIGHT, LITTLE LADY?
YES! THEY'LL KILL ALL OF YOU UNLESS YOU--
VERY
HEY! WHAT'RE YOU GRABBING ME FOR?
LIKE YOU DON'T KNOW, MISSY
I DON'T KNOW!
YOU'RE WANTED THROUGHOUT THE TERRITORY FOR MURDER
WANTED
Huh?
WHAT KIND OF TROUBLE ARE THEY IN, CAPRICIA?
GEROM! WAS CUT OFF BEFORE HE COULD SAY

NEGATION? IS IT *NEGATION* CREEPS, CAPRICIA?
HE SAID IT *WASN'T*, GALVAN
WHAT IF THEY TOOK ZEPHYRE AND VERITYN--
JUST LIKE THEY TOOK *GAMMID*?
GEROMI WOULD HAVE *MENTIONED* THAT
WE'RE ALMOST THERE I'M *SURE* THEY'RE OKAY
FRANKLY, I'VE GOT MORE *IMPORTANT* THINGS ON MY MIND THAN ANY DIFFICULTIES ZEPH AND VERI MAY HAVE
LIKE *ARISTOPHANES*. FOR SOMEONE WHO LIKES A FIGHT AS MUCH AS HE DOES--
- HE SURE WAS ANXIOUS TO STAY BEHIND IN *ATLANTIS*.
BELPHIR

HISTORIAN AUTHORED A CONTROVERSIAL STUDY OF HUMAN INTELLECT INFLUENCED BY THE BOOK OF HALGADAE EPIC POEM OF THOLAN'S QUEST
YES
YOU WILL DO
YOU WILL DO, AS WELL

OMEN'S
WHERE'S ZEPHYRE?
WHERE'S EVERYBODY? HEY, OLD GUY, WHERE'D EVERYONE GO?
EPOT
WE HAVE TO WARN THE TOWN, GEROM!
THEY'S ALL DOWN AT THE HANGIN'.
ANGING?
GENERAL STORE
GONNA HANG THAT GAL WHAT KILLED THEM FOLKS
ZEPHYRE
Oh NO

I--I DIDN'T HURT ANYONE
DON'T LIE WHEN YOU'RE THIS CLOSE TO THE LORD, MISS
WHY DOESN'T SHE JUST SHIMMER AWAY?
GANNISH AND YALA THEY CONTROL ALL OF THIS SHE CAN'T USE HER POWER
NICE DAY FOR A LYNCHIN', eh?
YOU TWO!
LET ZEPH GO! LET HER HAVE HER SPEED!
THEY'RE REALLY GOING TO KILL HER!
THAT'S HOW THE GAME IS PLAYED, KID.
FOR KEEPS
CREAKKK

WHAT IS THIS PLACE?
SOME OF TERRA COGNITO'S CONSTRUCTS
LOOKS LIKE A BUNCH OF SHACKS
IT'S A HISTORICAL REPRESENTATION, GALVAN
IT'S SUPPOSED TO BE ENTERTAINING
IS THIS PART OF THE SHOW?
WOW
I'M LIKING THIS LESS AND LESS EVERY SECOND
THEY DON'T LOOK HAPPY EITHER, CAPRICIA

NO!
ZEPHYRE!
RELAX, BOYS--
--YOU WORRY TOO MUCH
MISS ME?
GA !!
IT WAS WEIRD, LIKE I FORGOT ABOUT MY SPEED
YOU CAN'T PLAY WITH PEOPLE LIKE THIS!
NO? I LET HER LIVE.
LET HER? WHO DIED AND MADE YOU GOD?
WELL --
IT'S 'PRICIA AND THE GUYS.
AND THEY'RE IN A HURRY.

IS THIS REALLY *HAPPENING*? WHERE DID ALL THESE *HUMANS* COME FROM?

I DON'T *KNOW*, TUG!

WHY DO YOU KEEP ASKING ME QUESTIONS I CAN'T *ANSWER*?

SOMETHING ABOUT THIS IS ALL *WRONG*!

THOSE LUNATICS ARE CATCHING UP TO THEM!

I FEEL LIKE WE SHOULD DO SOMETHING!

MAN! DANIK WAS *RIGHT* YOU FOLKS ARE *USELESS*

DANIK?

THIS IS SO MUCH *FUN*! I MAY *NEVER* LEAVE!

IS THIS REALLY HAPPENING? WHERE DID ALL THESE HUMANS COME FROM?
I DON'T KNOW, TUG!
WHY DO YOU KEEP ASKING ME QUESTIONS I CAN'T ANSWER?
THOSE LUNATICS ARE CATCHING UP TO THEM!
I FEEL LIKE WE SHOULD DO SOMETHING!
THIS IS SO MUCH FUN!
I MAY NEVER LEAVE!

SOMETHING ABOUT THIS IS ALL WRONG!
MAN! DANIK WAS RIGHT YOU FOLKS ARE USELESS
DANIK?

I MEAN, WHAT'S *NOT* TO LOVE?

WHAT'S GOING *ON* HERE? WHO *ARE* THOSE HUMANS?

THEY'RE CREATIONS OF THOSE TWO *PEOPLE*

THEY MADE *ALL OF THIS* UP BUT IT'S *REAL*, CAPRICIA

THE *WOMAN* MENTIONED DANIK

YOU

WHAT'S *DANIK* HAVE TO DO WITH THIS?

ONLY *EVERY*THING HE THOUGHT THIS GANG NEEDED *TOUGHENING* UP

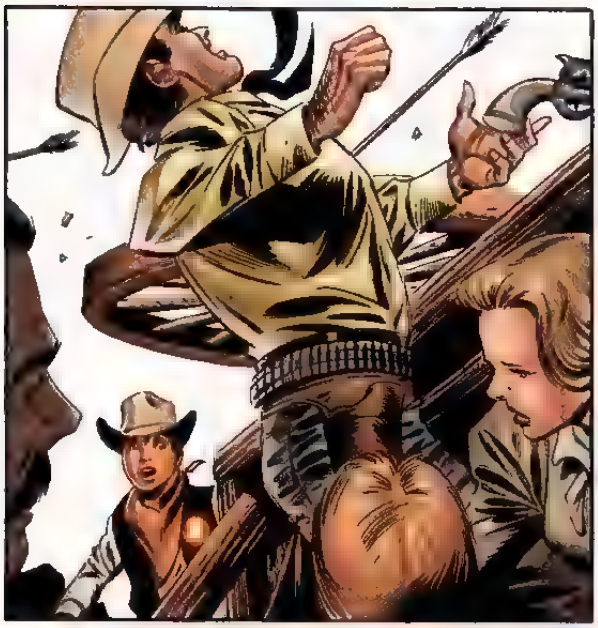
FROM WHERE *I'M* STANDING, HE'S *RIGHT*

I MEAN, WHAT'S *NOT* TO LOVE?

WHAT'S GOING *ON* HERE? WHO *ARE* THOSE HUMANS?
THEY'RE CREATIONS OF THOSE TWO-- *PEOPLE.*
THEY MADE *ALL OF THIS* UP BUT IT'S *REAL,* CAPRICIA
THE *WOMAN* MENTIONED DANIK
YOU
WHAT'S *DANIK* HAVE TO DO WITH THIS?
ONLY *EVERY*THING HE THOUGHT THIS GANG NEEDED *TOUGHENING* UP
FROM WHERE *I'M* STANDING, HE'S *RIGHT.*

SO, YOU TAKE AWAY OUR ENERGIES AND MAKE US FACE OVERWHELMING ODDS?
DAMN DIDN'T ASK ME TO GO EASY
DID HE ASK YOU TO KILL US?
THE AZTECS ARE COMING AGAIN!
I DON'T KNOW WHO OR WHAT YOU ARE
--BUT IF WE LIVE THROUGH THIS, YOU AND I ARE GOING TO TALK.
TAKE YOUR BEST SHOT, LADY

'BUT I THINK YOU'VE GOT *ENOUGH* ON YOUR PLATE FOR NOW'



NO.

IT'S NOT TRUE
I CAN'T BE TRUE

CAPRICIA!

LITTLE BUSY HERE, VERITYN

NONE OF THIS IS REAL NOT *REALLY* REAL

IT *LOOKS* REAL. IT *FEELS* REAL.

BUT I KNOW THAT *NONE* OF THIS IS ACTUALLY HAPPENING!

ONLY THE *DYING* PART IS REAL. IF WE *BELIEVE* IN IT

YOU'D BETTER BE *RIGHT*

SEE?

IT'S ALL A BIG *FAKE*

CAPRICIA!
LITTLE BUSY HERE, VERITYN
NONE OF THIS IS REAL, NOT REALLY REAL

IT LOOKS REAL IT FEELS REAL
BUT I KNOW THAT NONE OF THIS IS ACTUALY HAPPENING!

ONLY THE DYING PART IS REAL IF WE BELIEVE IN IT

YOU'D BETTER BE RIGHT--
SEE?
IT'S ALL A BIG FAKE.

ROOMS
ALL GONE.
JUST OLD BUILDINGS AND DUST.
YOU'VE HAD YOUR FUN. NOW LEAVE.
WE'LL GO WHEN WE'RE READY, ATLANTEAN
OKAY
SO WHAT WAS THAT ALL ABOUT?
A TEST, TUG. WE PASSED
CONSTANT THREATS FROM THE NEGATION AREN'T ENOUGH?
I THINK I'LL ASK DANIK EXACTLY THAT WHEN I SEE HIM.
THOUGH ALL I WANT TO DO NOW IS GO HOME.
WE COULD ALL USE THE REST

WE COULD ALL USE THE *SANITY*
FOUR
THAT WILL BE ENOUGH
AMATUS
BELPHIR
PAXTAN
RHEZUS
Uh?
WHAT CAN *YOU* WANT, BEAST?

WHAT COULD *YOU* UNDERSTAND OF WHAT I AM ABOUT?
THESE FOOLS ARE *NOT* YOUR FRIENDS YOU OWE THEM *NOTHING*
YOU ARE *FREE* NOW RANGE UPON THIS WORLD AND I WILL NOT *HUNT* YOU
OR DEFY ME AND *DIE*, THRAXIS

STORYTELLERS

Chuck DIXON — WRITER

Steve EPTING — PENCILER

Rick MAGYAR — INKER

Frank D'ARMATA — COLORIST

Dave LANPHEAR — LETTERER

Mark Alessi — PUBLISHER & CEO
Gina M. Villa — CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER
Michael A. Beattie — CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER
Jennifer Hernandez — GENERAL COUNSEL
Tony Panaccio — VICE PRESIDENT PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT
Chris Oarr — VICE PRESIDENT SALES & MARKETING
James Breitbeil — DIRECTOR MARKETING & DISTRIBUTION
Ian M. Feller — DIRECTOR CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS
Courtland Whited — MIS DIRECTOR
Gabo Mendoza — INTERNET SERVICES DIRECTOR
Charles Decker — DIRECTOR PRODUCTION CONTROL
Brian M. Soltis — CONTROLLER
Brandon Peterson — VICE PRESIDENT SPECIAL PROJECTS
Barbara Kesel — HEAD WRITER
Bart Sears — ART DIRECTOR
Pam Davies — VICE PRESIDENT PRODUCTION
Sylvia Bretz — PRODUCTION SUPERVISOR ADVERTISING/WEB
Erin Flanagan — WEB DESIGNER
Janet Bechtle — PRODUCTION SUPERVISOR BOOKS
Randy Martin — PRODUCTION DESIGNER
Michelle Pugliese — FREELANCE COORDINATOR

CGE
21
JAN
$2.95
$4.75 CAN
www.crossgen.com
CROSSGEN
IVAN REIS
Ryan Crossley
Chuck Dixon
Ivan Reis
Roland Paris
Andrew Crossley

THE STORY THUS FAR...

THEY WERE THE ATLANTEANS,

a peaceful civilization of artists and philosophers who used their phenomenal mental and physical skills to build an island utopia. They had but one responsibility: to guide and shepherd Earth's newborn race of *homo sapiens* towards a grand and glorious destiny. But when a mysterious cataclysm plunged Atlantis and its people beneath the waves, six – and only six – were awakened by a nameless stranger one thousand centuries later to find their utopia forgotten and in ruins, their brothers and sisters caught in an unshakeable slumber...and the human race gone, having vanished centuries ago in the Transition, a passage to a higher plane of existence.

Having concluded their adventure with Gannish and Yala, the Atlanteans make their way home. But, unbeknownst to them, Aristophanes plans to change the destiny of the sleeping Atlanteans and the world they live in. Only the bestial Thraxis suspects the truth...

The mental and physical abilities of the Atlanteans are identical in nature but not in application. Capricia and her teammates have each channeled their abilities into different skills:

CAPRICIA	DANIK	TUG	ZEPHYRE	GALVAN	VERITYN
Shapeshifter and empath	Keeper of the secrets	Telekinetic strongman	Hypermetabolic intellectual	Manipulator of the electromagnetic spectrum	Seer of all truths

02111

8 00155 98135 9

Crux® Vol. 1, Issue 21 JANUARY 2003 FIRST PRINTING. Published by CG Entertainment, Inc. Office of publication: 4023 Tampa Road Suite 2400, Oldsmar, Florida 34677 **Crux®**, **CrossGen®**, **CrossGen Comics®**, **CrossGeneration®**, **CrossGeneration Comics®**, and the **CrossGen sigil®** are registered trademarks of CrossGeneration Comics, Inc. The **CG Entertainment logo™** and all prominent **Crux®** characters and images are Trademark and Copyright 2003 CrossGeneration Comics, Inc. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. The stories, incidents and characters in this publication are fictional. Any similarities to persons living or dead are purely coincidental. With the exception of artwork used for review purposes, none of the contents of this book may be reproduced in any form without the express written consent of CrossGeneration Comics, Inc. PRINTED IN CANADA.

CGE

MINDLESS BEAST!
HOW CAN YOU INTERFERE WITH WHAT YOU DO NOT UNDERSTAND?

MY ATLANTEAN DESCENDANTS VIEW YOU AS SOME KIND OF PET
I SHOULD HAVE MADE YOUR DEATH A PRIORITY, THRAXIS
I SHALL RECTIFY THAT OVERSIGHT

MY ATLANTEAN DESCENDANTS VIEW YOU AS SOME KIND OF *PET*
I SHOULD HAVE MADE YOUR DEATH A *PRIORITY*, THRAXIS
I SHALL *RECTIFY* THAT OVERSIGHT

I WILL NOT HAVE MY WILL THWARTED!
NOT BY YOU, CREATURE!
MY BLADE
FORGED IN THE FIRES OF THEBREBUS
HAMMERED FROM RAW STEEL--
IN A CEREMONY OLDER THAN THIS CITY

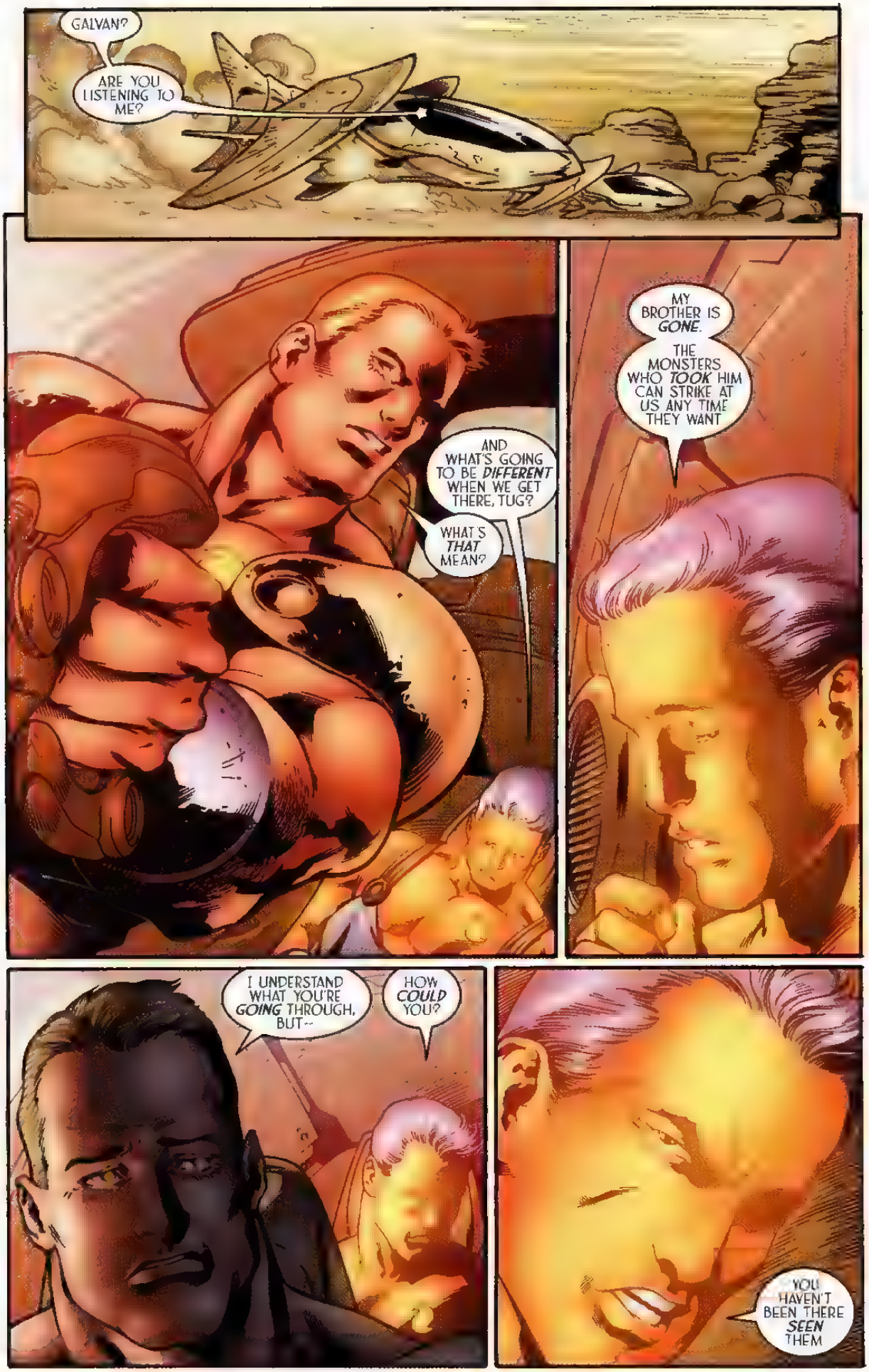
NO!
THE BLADE OF ARISTOPHANES IS SACRED!
YOU DIE FOR THAT, BEAST!
UNNH!
SO, WHAT'S NEXT?

WHAT DO YOU *MEAN*, GEROMI?
DO I BECOME AN HONORARY *ATLANTEAN* NOW?
AND *WHERE* DID THIS SHIP COME FROM?
THRAXIS CALLED THEM "*THE MASTERS*"
WHO'S THRAXIS?
LONG STORY
EVERY STORY'S A LONG STORY WITH YOU GUYS, VERITYN
BUT THANKS FOR COMING TO GET ME -- EVEN IF I DID LEAD YOU INTO A TRAP.
AND ARE GANNISH AND YALA FROM ATLANTIS, TOO?
THAT'S ONE *VERITYN* CAN ANSWER
NOT *REALLY*
NOT UNTIL I TALK TO *PRICIA*.

I THOUGHT ONCE I GOT WITH YOU GUYS ALL MY QUESTIONS WOULD BE ANSWERED
BUT I'M STILL AS CLUELESS AS I WAS WHEN TERRA COGNITO ABANDONED ME HERE.
YOU REALLY WANT TO KNOW!
SURE?
WELL, YEAH.
SURE
THRAXIS IS AN ALIEN FROM A RACE OF CREATURES WHO WERE ARTIFICIALLY EVOLVED TO SERVE ANOTHER RACE OF ALIENS CALLED "THE MASTERS." THEY CAME HERE A LONG TIME AGO AND FOUGHT OUR ANCIENT ATLANTEAN ANCESTORS WHO WERE LED BY A GUY NAMED ARISTOPHANES. THRAXIS AND ARISTOPHANES WERE PUT IN STASIS LIKE A HUNDRED THOUSAND YEARS AGO, BUT THEY'RE AWAKE NOW OKAY!
SORRY I ASKED
IT'S A LOT TO TAKE IN ALL AT ONCE
YOU'LL UNDERSTAND THE STORY BETTER--

...WHEN YOU'VE MET ARISTOPHANES AND THRAXIS'
UNNNH!
RETRIEVE MY SWORD!
FOUL MONSTER WILL I NEVER BE RID OF YOU?
AN ETERNITY AND STILL YOU PLAGUE ME
KRAKOOM
UNNH!

"GALVAN WE'RE ALMOST TO *ATLANTIS*


GALVAN?
ARE YOU LISTENING TO ME?
AND WHAT'S GOING TO BE *DIFFERENT* WHEN WE GET THERE, TUG?
WHAT'S *THAT* MEAN?
MY BROTHER IS *GONE*.
THE MONSTERS WHO *TOOK* HIM CAN STRIKE AT US ANY TIME THEY WANT
I UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU'RE *GOING* THROUGH, BUT--
HOW *COULD* YOU?
YOU HAVEN'T BEEN THERE *SEEN* THEM

I ONLY SAW ONE OF THEIR WORLDS, BUT IT WAS ENOUGH.
AN UGLY PLANET COVERED WITH HORDES OF THEIR WARRIORS AND SWARMS OF MONSTERS
THEY LIVE FOR ANNIHILATION THEY'VE DESTROYED OR CONSUMED ALL THAT WAS THEIRS
THAT'S WHY THEY ATTACK US FOR THEM IT'S SURVIVAL.

AND THEY'LL NEVER STOP UNTIL ONE SIDE OR THE OTHER IS *EXTINCT*

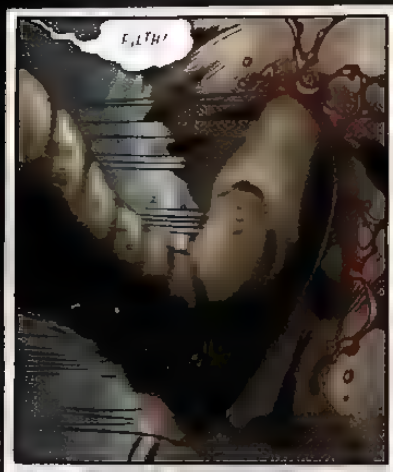
DAMN YOU!!

AND THEY'LL NEVER STOP UNTIL ONE SIDE OR THE OTHER IS EXTINCT
DAMN YOU!

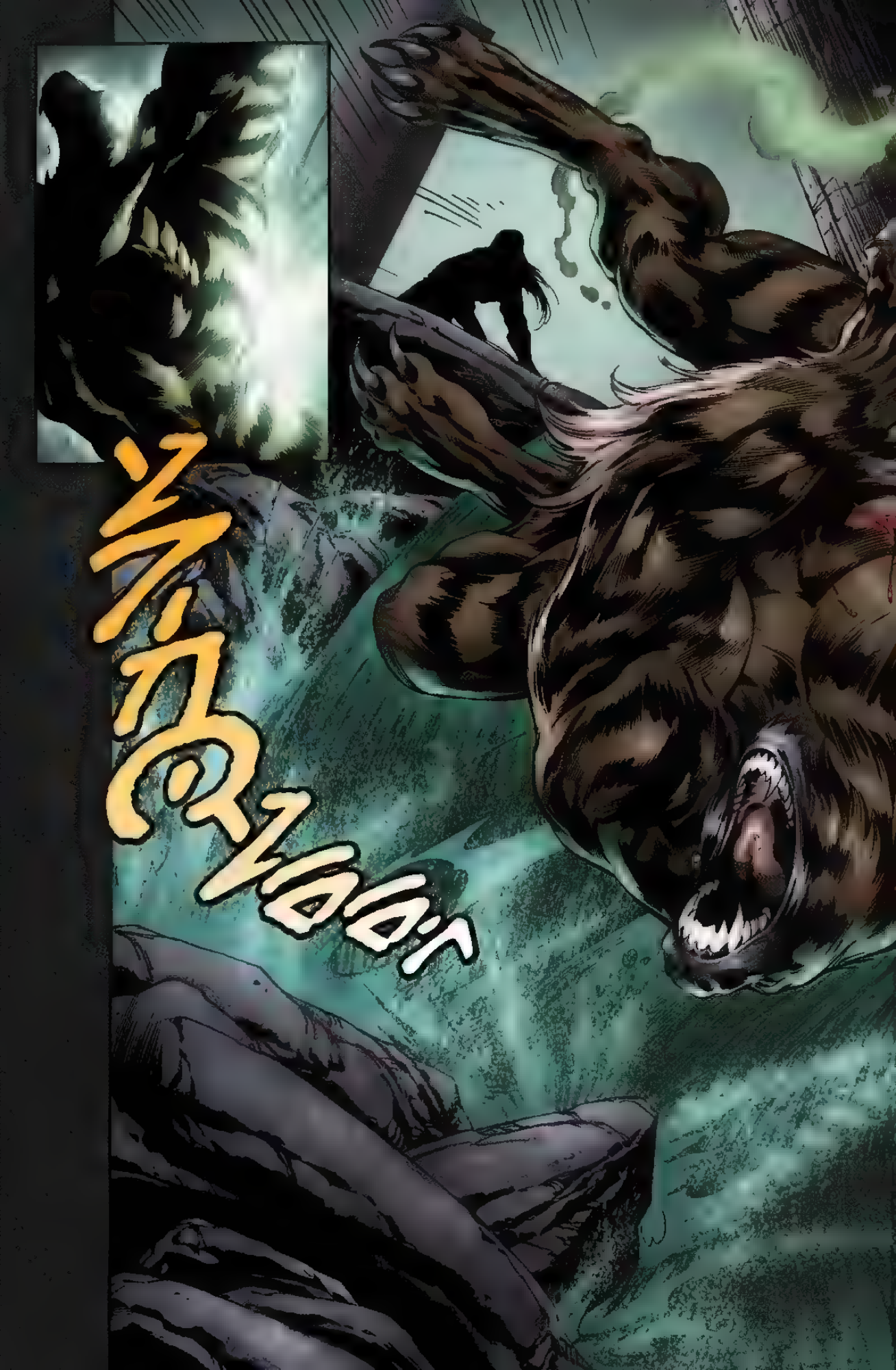
DIE!
DIE THE DEATH SO LONG OVERDUE!
THE LAST OF YOUR KIND!
ONCE I HAVE DESTROYED YOU
ZZZZZZ
=ARNNH!-

YOU'RE DIFFICULT TO KILL, BEAST
BUT NOT IMPOSSIBLE
WHAT BLEEDS MAY DIE!

GRRRHK?


FILTH!

GUNHHH!

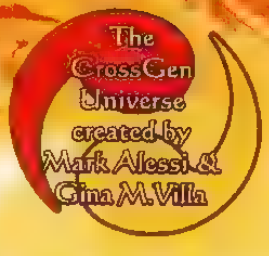


AT
LAST YOU
COME

TO HELP ME BUILD ATLANTIS ANEW

"A RETURN TO POWER AND GLORY
LET'S NEVER LEAVE AGAIN
I THOUGHT YOU WANTED TO TRAVEL, VERI
NOT FOR A WHILE, OKAY, PRICIA?
AGREED
WE'VE GOT ENOUGH WORK TO DO HERE IN ATLANTIS
SO, WHAT'RE YOU GONNA DO, GALVAN?
I HAVE TO HELP TUG GET THE INTERFACE WITH THE RELIC SHIP INTERFACED
OR SOMETHING
WHAT ABOUT AFTER THAT?
WHAT ARE YOU BABBLING ABOUT ZEPHYRE?
MAYBE YOU AND I COULD-- TALK?
SURE I GUESS
Oh, MAN MUSH EE

I'M ALREADY STARTING TO BE SORRY WE CAME BACK HERE



STORYTELLERS

Chuck DIXON
WRITER

Ivan REIS
Guest PENCILER

Roland PARIS & **Rick MAGYAR**
INKERS

Andrew CROSSLEY
Guest COLORIST

Dave LANPHEAR
LETTERER

This issue marks Rick Magyar's last issue as regular inker on CRUX. Look for him next as the inker on SOLUS.
Thanks, Rick.
We'll Miss You!

Mark Alessi
PUBLISHER & CEO

Gina M. Villa
CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER

Michael A. Beattie
CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

Jennifer Hernandez
GENERAL COUNSEL

Tony Panaccio
VICE PRESIDENT
PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT

Chris Oarr
VICE PRESIDENT
SALES & MARKETING

James Breitbeil
DIRECTOR
MARKETING & DISTRIBUTION

Ian M. Feller
DIRECTOR
CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS

Courtland Whited
MIS DIRECTOR

Gabo Mendoza
INTERNET SERVICES DIRECTOR

Charles Decker
DIRECTOR
PRODUCTION CONTROL

Brian M. Soltis
CONTROLLER

Brandon Peterson
VICE PRESIDENT
SPECIAL PROJECTS

Barbara Kesel
HEAD WRITER

Bart Sears
ART DIRECTOR

Pam Davies
VICE PRESIDENT
PRODUCTION

Sylvia Bretz
PRODUCTION SUPERVISOR
ADVERTISING/WEB

Erin Flanagan
WEB DESIGNER

Janet Bechtle
PRODUCTION SUPERVISOR
BOOKS

Randy Martin
PRODUCTION DESIGNER

Michelle Pugliese
FREELANCE COORDINATOR

KEY ISSUE

CRUX

Chuck Dixon
Steve Epting
Roland Paris
Frank D'Armata

CGE

22 FEB

$2.95
$4.75 CAN

www.crossgen.com

THE STORY THUS FAR...

THEY WERE THE ATLANTEANS,

a peaceful civilization of artists and philosophers who used their phenomenal mental and physical skills to build an island utopia. They had but one responsibility: to guide and shepherd Earth's newborn race of *homo sapiens* towards a grand and glorious destiny. But when a mysterious cataclysm plunged Atlantis and its people beneath the waves, six – and only six – were awakened by a nameless stranger one thousand centuries later to find their utopia forgotten and in ruins, their brothers and sisters caught in an unshakeable slumber...and the human race gone, having vanished centuries ago in the Transition, a passage to a higher plane of existence.

Aristophanes awakened several Atlanteans from their millennia-long stasis. His plans for them and for Atlantis remained a secret known only to him. Until now...

The mental and physical abilities of the Atlanteans are identical in nature but not in application. Caprica and her teammates have each channeled their abilities into different skills.

CAPRICIA — Shapeshifter and empath

BANIK — Keeper of the secrets

TUG — Telekinetic strongman

ZEPHYRE — Hypermetabolic intellectual

GALVAN — Manipulator of the electromagnetic spectrum

VERITYN — Seer of all truths

Crux® vol. 1, issue 22. FEBRUARY 2003. FIRST PRINTING. Published by CG Entertainment, Inc. Office of publication: 4823 Tampa Road, Suite 2400, Oldsmar, Florida 34677. Crux®, CrossGen®, CrossGen Comics®, CrossGeneration®, CrossGeneration Comics®, and the CrossGen supporting characters are registered trademarks of CrossGeneration Comics, Inc. The CG Entertainment logo® and all prominent Crux® characters and images are Trademark and Copyright 2003 CrossGeneration Comics, Inc. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. The events, incidents and characters in this publication are fictional. Any similarities to persons, living or dead, are purely coincidental. With the exception of artwork used for review purposes, none of the contents of this book may be reproduced in any form without the express written consent of CrossGeneration Comics, Inc. PRINTED IN CANADA.

CGE

THIS FEELS WRONG

MORE *SPECIFIC* PLEASE, VERITYN

CAPRICIA, ATLANTEAN

SHAPESHIFTER

A *FEELING*, CAPRICIA. ATLANTIS DOESN'T HAVE THE SAME *VIBE* IT HAD BEFORE WE LEFT

VERITYN, ATLANTEAN

SEER

TUG, ATLANTEAN

TELEKINESIS

EVEN *I* SENSE SOMETHING'S NOT RIGHT

IF *TUG* FEELS IT THERE MUST BE SOME *SERIOUS* TROUBLE

IT'S NOT *FUNNY*, GALVAN

ZEPHYRE, ATLANTEAN

HYPERSONIC SPEED

GEROMI, HUMAN

YOU MEAN THIS PLACE ISN'T *ALWAYS* THIS SPOOKY ZEPH?

GALVAN, ATLANTEAN

ELECTROMAGNETIC MANIPULATION

IT'S ALWAYS EMPTY, GEROM
SO WHERE'S THIS ARISTOFANTIES YOU GUYS TOLD ME ABOUT?
AND YOUR BIG HAIRY PAL THRAXIS DO YOU SENSE THEM?
SOMEONE'S HERE NOT THRAXIS
NEGATION INCURSION?
NO.
THEY'RE SHIELDING THEIR THOUGHTS, TRYING TO HIDE FROM ME
LIKE...
LIKE ATLANTEANS
ATLANTEANS?
THEY'RE AWAKE? IT WORKED? MAYBE IT'S DAD!
ZEPHYRE!
NO!

FATHER!
FATHER
THEN WHO--?
UNNH!

YOU'RE CERTAIN THEY'RE ATLANTEANS VER?
I ONLY CATCH GLIMPSES. THEY'RE TRYING TO SHIELD THEMSELVES FROM ME
I GUESS THAT MEANS THEY'RE LIKE US
NO ZEPHYRE
BUT SOMEONE WAS HERE
FOUR CHAMBERS HAVE BEEN OPENED BUT NEITHER GALVAN OR I STARTED THE RESUSCITATION SEQUENCE
ARISTOPHANES WAS HERE BY HIMSELF
WHAT'S GOING ON VERITYN?
THESE ARE THE ATLANTEANS WHO WERE LEFT TO SLEEP FOR ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND YEARS
SO, NOW SOME OF THEM WOKE UP LIKE YOU GUYS DID?
MOTHER

VERITYN?
IT'S MY MOTHER
WHY WOULD HE AWAKEN THESE FOUR? WHAT'S HIS AGENDA?
HE WAS READING THEIR FILES. I THOUGHT IT WAS IDLE CURIOSITY
NOTHING IDLE ABOUT IT
WAS ONE OF THEM VERITYN'S MOM?
WHY DO YOU ASK THAT, GEROMI?
HE SAYS HE SAW HER
VERI'S MOTHER IS STILL HERE
MOTHER?
Oh

VERITYN
COME TO ME
MOTHER T'S BEEN SUCH A LONG TIME
I THOUGHT I'D NEVER
Oohhh

HE CAME *THIS* WAY?
Uh YEAH
SOMEONE IS SEPARATING US TAKING US DOWN ONE AT A *TIME*
IF THEY VE HURT VERI
OR ZEPHYRE
LET S NOT RUN ON *RAGE* WE HAVE TO FIGURE THIS OUT

YOU'RE THE ONE WHO WENT ANIMAL ON US, PRICIA
IS SHE STILL --CAPRICIA WHEN SHE'S LIKE THAT?
YOU'VE SEEN HER CHANGE BEFORE, GEROMI
HE WAS HERE
SOMEONE DREW VERITYN AWAY FROM US
CAPRICIA
WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THIS --
--DANIK?
YOU KNOW BETTER THAN TO ASK CAPRICIA
YOU KNOW EVERYTHING, RIGHT?
VERITYN AND ZEPHYRE ARE N NO DANGER

WHERE ARE THEY? IS ARISTOPHANES BEHIND THIS?
OF SMALL IMPORT CAPRICIA. I COME TO YOU WITH MORE WEIGHTY MATTERS
EVENTS MOVE SWIFTLY YOU ARE NEEDED
BUT I CAN'T LEAVE, DANIK THERE'S--
THEY MUST FEND FOR THEMSELVES
Whuh--WHAT DO WE DO NOW?
YOU HEARD THE MAN
FEND FOR OURSELVES
SO, DANIK WAS ONCE ONE OF YOU GUYS?
WELL, DANIK IS AN ATLANTEAN. BUT
WHEN DID HE WAKE UP?
HE NEVER WENT TO SLEEP
Huh?

DANIK HAS BEEN VERY *ACTIVE* FOR THE PAST TEN THOUSAND CENTURIES

IT IS *TIME*, CAPRICIA YOUR DESTINY IS *NOW*

THERE IS NO *OTHER* WAY?

EVENTS HAVE MOVED BEYOND EVEN MY CONTROL. EVEN WHEN ATLANTIS WAS VIBRANT AND ALIVE *THIS* MOMENT LAY IN ITS FUTURE

IT IS ONLY FORTUNE THAT CHOSE YOU AND THE REST TO REMAIN *BEHIND* WHEN THE OTHERS EXPERIENCED TRANSITION

IT IS BLIND CHANCE THAT ATLANTIS SANK INTO THE SEA, TO HIDE YOU FROM THE SIGHT OF MAN FROM THE SIGHT OF *ALL*

IT IS UNFORTUNATE THAT YOU SLEPT SO MANY YEARS TO AWAKEN IN *THESE* TIMES

YOUR MISSION TO *SHEPHERD* THE HUMAN RACE TO GREATNESS HAS BEEN MADE IRRELEVANT--

BOTH BY THEIR DISAPPEARANCE *AND* THE THREAT OF THE NEGATION

THAT THREAT *TRUMPS* ANY OTHER CONCERN
AND MUST BE *FACED*
IT MUST BE BY *YOU*
NOT *DIRECTLY* IF WHAT YOU'VE *TOLD* ME IS TRUE
MY *CHILD* IS THE KEY TO VICTORY
APRICIA--
ENOUGH OF YOUR FEIGNED CONCERN DANA
BUT I--
DON'T *INSULT* ME
IF NOW IS THE TIME LET IT *BE* NOW
AND DAMN US *BOTH* FOR TRUSTING YOU

THIS IS, LIKE, AN ATLANTEAN THING, RIGHT?
I'M NOT SURE HOW ATLANTEAN DANIK IS ANY MORE. HE'S CHANGED SINCE WE KNEW HIM LAST
STAYING AWAKE FOR A HUNDRED THOUSAND YEARS WOULD MAKE ME CRANKY
BUT WHAT DID HE DO ALL THAT TIME?
WHO KNOWS? HE ONLY TALKS TO VERITYN AND CAPRICIA
AND SOMETIMES HE ZAPS CAPRICIA AWAY BUT WE DON'T KNOW WHERE THEY GO
SO, DID HE MAKE ZEPHYRE AND VERI DISAPPEAR TOO?
NO, THAT'S SOMETHING ELSE
AND I THINK I KNOW WHO'S AT THE HEART OF IT
DO YOU TUG?

ARISTOPHANES
YOU AWAKENED THE OTHERS
AWAKENED *MORE* THAN THEIR PHYSICAL FORMS, TUG
THOUGH YOU *MOVE* AND *SPEAK*, YOU AND YOUR COMRADES ARE *YET* ASLUMBER YOU FAIL TO *SEE* THE WORLD AS IT IS
I HOLD *SCANT* HOPE FOR YOU I SEE YOU KEEP COMPANY WITH A *HUMAN*
HUMAN?
THAT WOULD BE *YOU*, GEROMI

PERHAPS YOU MIGHT *TELL* ME HOW TO VIEW THE WORLD
THAT'S ARISTOPHANES A LEGENDARY HERO OF ATLANTIS
HERO? I'D HATE TO SEE YOUR *BAD* GUYS
YOU *CODDLE* THE HUMAN RACE LIKE BACKWARD CHILDREN A *WASTE* OF OUR TALENTS
YOU *ADOPT* THE ALIEN CREATURE THRAXIS AS IF IT WERE A PET
AND YOU *DITHER* WHILE OUR UNIVERSE LIES OPEN TO ATTACK FROM SOME VILE DIMENSION YOU CALL *NEGATION*
WHO DID YOU AWAKEN, ARISTOPHANES?
AND WHERE IS THRAXIS?

WE'VE GROWN KIND OF *ATTACHED* TO THAT BIG MOUNTAIN OF FUR

THRAXIS IS A *MONSTER*

ANOTHER OF YOUR MISPLACED LOYALTIES
LIKE YOUR DEVOTION TO THE HUMANS
FOR ALL OF YOUR CARING FOR ALL OF YOUR GOOD INTENTIONS
YOU END ONLY THIS SPECIMEN
HEY! I'M RIGHT HERE!
AND WHILE YOU EXPEND ALL OF YOUR ENERGIES IN WASTED PURSUITS
A UNIVERSE OF EVIL THREATENS TO ENGULF YOU WHILE YOU DO NOTHING
WELL DO SOMETHING TO YOU IF YOU DON'T HAND OVER VER AND ZEPHYRE RIGHT NOW
READY, GALVAN?
SAY THE WORD, TUG
YES
THE WORD

I'VE MADE A FEW NEW ACQUAINTANCES YOU MAY REMEMBER THEM
BELPHIR
RHEZUS
PAXTAN
AND AMATUS
I'VE INFORMED THEM OF YOUR MONUMENTAL FAILURE TO EITHER SAVE THE HUMAN RACE FROM PERDITION--
OR RESTORE THE CITIZENS OF ATLANTIS TO WAKEFULNESS

YOU'VE LIED TO THEM
Oh, NO, TUG
I HAVE TOLD THEM ONLY WORDS OF TRUTH
THEIR EYES HAVE TOLD THEM THE REST
AND THEY AGREE THAT YOU NO LONGER HAVE A HOME HERE

STORYTELLERS

Chuck **DIXON**
WRITER

Steve **EPTING**
PENCILER

Roland **PARIS**
INKER

Frank **D'ARMATA**
COLORIST

Dave **LANPHEAR**
LETTERER

Cover Inks By
Rick Magyar

This issue marks the debut of Roland Paris as the regular inker on CRUX.

Mark Alessi
PUBLISHER & CEO

Gina M. Villa
CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER

Michael A. Beattie
CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

Jennifer Hernandez
GENERAL COUNSEL

Tony Panaccio
VICE PRESIDENT
PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT

Chris Oarr
VICE PRESIDENT
SALES & MARKETING

James Breitbeil
DIRECTOR
MARKETING & DISTRIBUTION

Ian M. Feller
DIRECTOR
CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS

Courtland Whited
MIS DIRECTOR

Gabo Mendoza
INTERNET SERVICES DIRECTOR

Charles Decker
DIRECTOR
PRODUCTION CONTROL

Brian M. Soltis
CONTROLLER

Brandon Peterson
VICE PRESIDENT
SPECIAL PROJECTS

Barbara Kesel
HEAD WRITER

Bart Sears
ART DIRECTOR

Pam Davies
VICE PRESIDENT
PRODUCTION

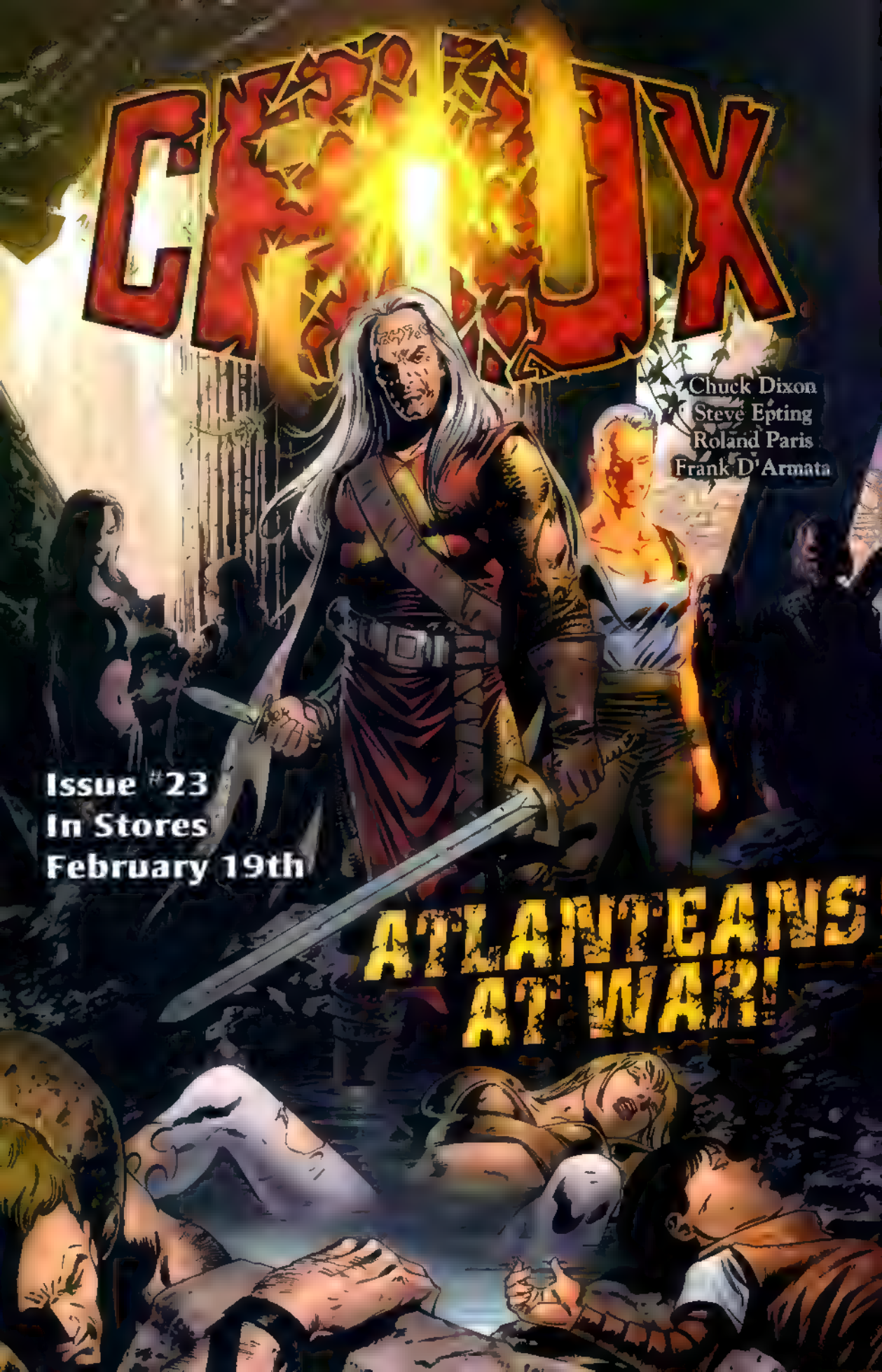
Sylvia Bretz
PRODUCTION SUPERVISOR
ADVERTISING/WEB

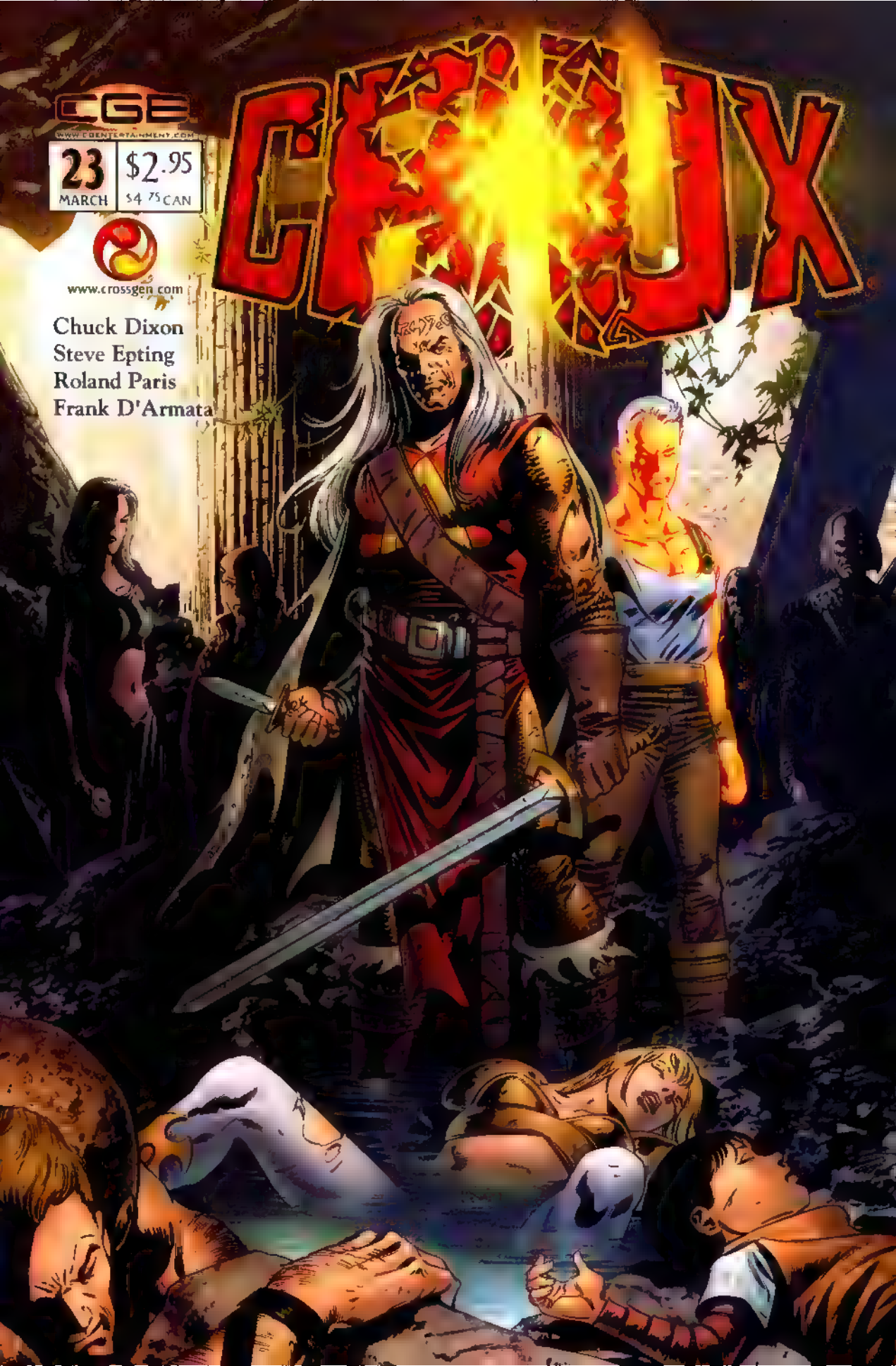
Erin Flanagan
WEB DESIGNER

Janet Bechtle
PRODUCTION SUPERVISOR
BOOKS

Randy Martin
PRODUCTION DESIGNER

Michelle Pugliese
FREELANCE COORDINATOR


CROSSOVER
Chuck Dixon
Steve Epting
Roland Paris
Frank D'Armata
Issue #23
In Stores
February 19th
ATLANTEANS AT WAR!


CGE
WWW.CGENTERTAINMENT.COM
23
MARCH
$2.95
$4.75 CAN
www.crossgen.com
Chuck Dixon
Steve Epting
Roland Paris
Frank D'Armata

THE STORY THUS FAR...

THEY WERE THE ATLANTEANS,

a peaceful civilization of artists and philosophers who used their phenomenal mental and physical skills to build an island utopia. They had but one responsibility: to guide and shepherd Earth's newborn race of *homo sapiens* towards a grand and glorious destiny. But when a mysterious cataclysm plunged Atlantis and its people beneath the waves, six – and only six – were awakened by a nameless stranger one thousand centuries later to find their utopia forgotten and in ruins, their brothers and sisters caught in an unshakeable slumber...and the human race gone, having vanished centuries ago in the Transition, a passage to a higher plane of existence.

Aristophanes has reawakened four Atlanteans that have willingly allied with him to banish Capricia, Tug and the others from their home. Danik appeared to take Capricia away from Earth to fulfill the mysterious destiny that has been thrust upon her. Cast into the sea to die, Thraxis has discovered the largest Negation invasion of all on the ocean floor.

The mental and physical abilities of the Atlanteans are identical in nature but not in application. Capricia and her teammates have each channeled their abilities into different skills:

CAPRICIA — Shapeshifter and empath

DANIK — Keeper of the secrets

TUG — Telekinetic strongman

ZEPHYRE — Hypermetabolic intellectual

GALVAN — Manipulator of the electromagnetic spectrum

VERITYN — Seer of all truths

Crux® Vol. 1, Issue 23 MARCH 2003 FIRST PRINTING Published by CG Entertainment, Inc. Office of publication: 4023 Tampa Road, Suite 2400, Oldsmar, Florida 34677. Crux® CrossGen® CrossGen Comics® CrossGeneration® CrossGeneration Comics® and the CrossGen sigil® are registered trademarks of CrossGeneration Comics, Inc. The CG Entertainment logo™ and all prominent Crux® characters and images are Trademark and Copyright 2003 CrossGeneration Comics, Inc. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. The stories, incidents and characters in this publication are fictional. Any similarities to persons living or dead are purely coincidental. With the exception of artwork used for review purposes, none of the contents of this book may be reproduced in any form without the express written consent of CrossGeneration Comics, Inc. PRINTED IN CANADA

WHERE *ARE* THEY, ARISTOPHANES?
IF YOU'VE HURT THEM IN *ANY* WAY

NO, TUG! **LISTEN** TO HIM!

YOU LISTEN TO HIM GALVAN!

I WANT TO KNOW WHAT HE DID WITH *VERI* AND *ZEPHYRE!*

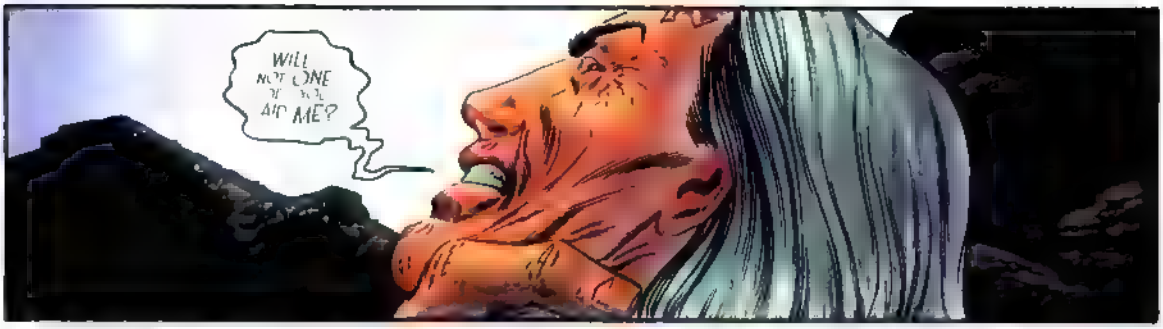
I'VE DONE NOTHING WITH THEM. THEY ARE SAFE

I SIMPLY WISHED TO ***SPEAK*** TO YOU WHILE YOU WERE ***BEREFT*** OF YOUR COMBINED POWER

ATLANTIS IS IN *DANGER*

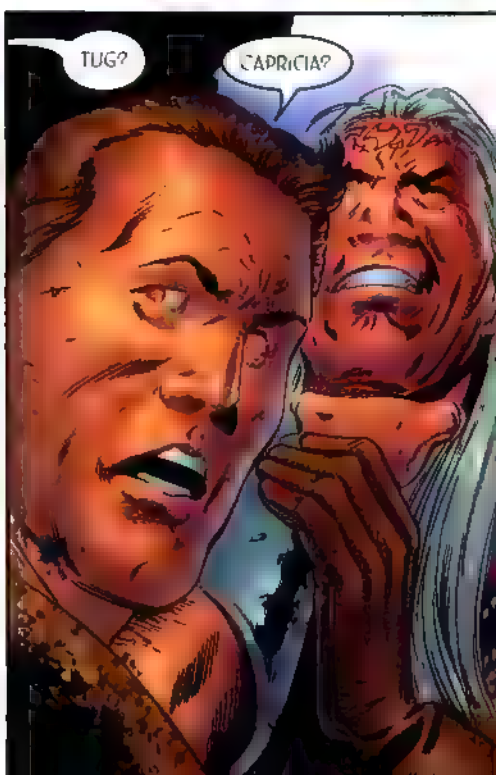
THAT'S RIGHT, ARISTOPHANES
FROM YOU!
HEY!
I MERELY SEEK TO GUIDE YOU
YOU MEAN CONTROL US
STAND BACK OR
OR WHAT?
=UNNH!=
THINGS ARE DIFFERENT NOW WE'VE ADVANCED TEN THOUSAND YEARS BEYOND YOUR KIND OF THINKING
BUT I CAN STILL SPEAK IN A LANGUAGE YOU UNDERSTAND

RELEASE HIM OR I SCRAMBLE YOUR BRAINS
BELPHIR, RIGHT?
I THINK I REMEMBER READING ABOUT YOU
WHY DID YOU REMAIN BEHIND AFTER TRANSITION?
WAS IT SOMETHING IN YOUR NATURE THAT KEPT YOU FROM ADVANCING?
ARRGH!
SOMETHING IN YOUR OWN GENETIC MAKE-UP?
THE SAME THING THAT DROVE YOU TO GENETICS AS A STUDY?
WHERE ARE THEY?
IRONIC, ISN'T IT--?
IF VERI WERE HERE I WOULDN'T HAVE TO HURT YOU TO GET AT THE TRUTH
NNG


WILL NOT ONE OF YOU AID ME?

I AM CURIOUS TO SEE HOW THIS PLAYS OUT, ARISTOPHANES. DO YOU HAVE THE STRENGTH OF YOUR CONVICTIONS?
ALWAYS THE INTELLECTUAL. PAXTAN. WHAT SAY YOU, AMATUS?
I. I'M NOT CERTAIN, RHEZUS. WHAT IS THE PROPER COURSE?

HOW BEST TO END THIS CONFLICT?


TUG?
CAPRICIA?

PUT HIM DOWN, TUG THIS IS NO WAY TO ACT
I THOUGHT I THOUGHT YOU WENT WITH DANIK
WELL I'M BACK. WHAT COULD BE MORE IMPORTANT THAN BEING WITH MY FRIENDS? ESPECIALLY OLD FRIENDS LIKE THESE
YOU KNEW MORE ATLANTEANS HAD BEEN REVIVED?
THEY'LL ALL BE RE-AWAKENED BUT YOU WILL ALWAYS BE MY FAVORITE, TUG
CAPRICIA?
NOT CAPRICIA
UH?
JUST WHAT I'D EXPECT FROM YOU, AMATUS
CHILDISH LIES.

JOIN US. TLG OUR PATHS ARE THE SAME I ONLY CHOOSE A MORE EXPEDIENT ROUTE
LIKE ABDUCTION? LIKE ASSAULT?
TO BATTLE OUR ENEMIES WE MUST LOSE OURSELVES?
GAAAAAH!

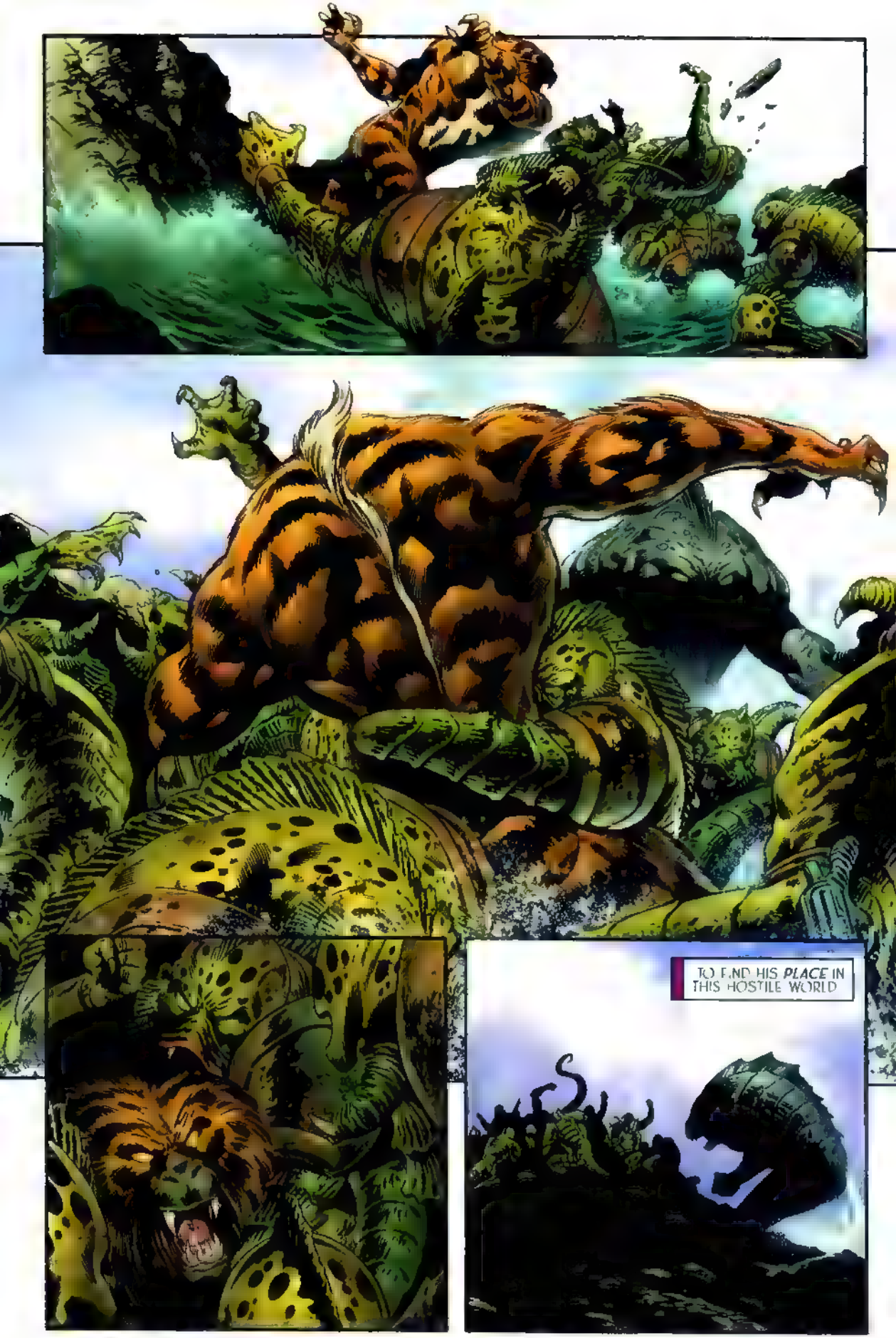
WHAT ARE YOU DOING, GALVAN?
TUG WAS OUT OF CONTROL, GEROMI
WHO WAS OUT OF CONTROL?
GALVAN!
ZEPHYRE! VERITYN! YOU'RE ALL RIGHT
WE WERE TILL NOW
WHATWERE YOUDOINGYOU COULDHAVE KILLEDHIM!
WHOSE SIDE ARE YOU ON?
THERE ARE NO SIDES, VERI

ARISTOPHANES IS RIGHT
YOU'RE JOINING THEM GALVAN?
I GUESS [illegible] IF YOU WERE SMART YOU'D DO THE SAME VERI
SMART, IS IT?
THIS ISN'T A GAME IF YOU'RE NOT GOING TO [illegible] THE WAY
YOU'RE ALL WELCOME BACK WHEN IT'S OVER; WHEN THE NEGATION HAS BEEN DEFEATED
WHEN IS ANYTHING LIKE THIS EVER OVER?
ASK THE WHITE-HAIRED GUY THAT ONE

WE'LL WATCH *OVER* THE PLACE WHILE YOU'RE GONE ZEPHYRE
I'M SURE YOU *WILL*, BELPHIR
I WOULDN'T WANT YOU *WORRYING* ABOUT GALVAN
OBVIOUSLY YOU TWO *KNOW* EACH OTHER
WE'VE MET
SO WHAT'S THE STORY WITH
WE'VE *MET* GEROMI
OUCH
ARISTOPHANES, WHERE'S *THRAXIS*?
HE IS *GONE*, SON
I *RELEASED* HIM INTO THE WILD

HE IS FREE TO *ROAM* AS HE PLEASES

ZEROZILLA


TO FIND HIS PLACE IN THIS HOSTILE WORLD

YOUR FRIENDS WILL COME TO SEE THE *TRUTH* AS YOU HAVE GALVAN
THEY JUST DON'T *UNDERSTAND*
HOW *CAN* THEY? TO THEM THE NEGATION IS BUT A *SOMETIMES* INCURSION MORE *IRRITATING* THAN DEADLY
THEY HAVE NOT GLIMPSED WHAT LIES *BEYOND* THOSE PORTALS
IF ONLY THERE WAS A WAY TO *MAKE* THEM BELIEVE
CAPRICIA AND DANIK ONCE SAVED *ME* FROM A TERRIBLE FATE
BROUGHT ME BACK FROM *MADNESS*
IT IS THE *LEAST* I CAN DO TO REPAY THEM BY SAVING THIS WORLD FROM AN INVADING HORROR
CAPRICIA *MENTIONED* YOU ONCE
SHE SPOKE ONLY *ONCE* OF AMATUS A *SAD* COMMENTARY ON MY ROLE AS MENTOR
I *GUESS*

WE'LL TURN OUR EFFORTS TO THE *DEFENSE* OF ATLANTIS
ONCE WE HAVE THAT STRATEGY IN PLACE WE CAN REAWAKEN THE *REST* OF THE POPULATION
DO YOU RECALL *ME*, GALVAN? I CERTAINLY REMEMBER YOU *AND* YOUR BROTHER
I REMEMBER THAT YOU DIDN'T HAVE MUCH TIME FOR *EITHER* OF US BELPHIR
WELL I'VE AL THE TIME IN THE *WORLD* NOW DON'T I?
THIS IS WHERE IT *BEGINS*
HERE WE WILL BUILD THE WEAPONS THAT WILL DRIVE THE NEGATION *FOREVER* FROM OUR UNIVERSE
THEN WE WILL *FOLLOW*
AND *THEIR* WORLDS WILL FALL TO US

ARE WE

THERE YET? YES. WE *ARE*

WHAT DO YOU CALL THIS PLACE AGAIN, GEROMI?

IT USED TO BE CALLED *EL AY*

THEN IT BECAME *SAN ANGELES* WHEN THE CITY STRETCHED TO COVER *ALL* OF THE PLACE CALLED CALIFORNIA

IT'S BEEN PRESERVED BY TERRA COGNITO JUST AS IT WAS IN THE TWENTY NINTH CENTURY

IT'S UGLY
I WON'T ARGUE, ZEPH BUT IT HAS EVERYTHING WE NEED
THERE'S ENOUGH TECHNO RUBBISH HERE FOR ME TO BUILD THE EQUIPMENT WE NEED TO TRUMP ARISTOPHANES AND HIS CROWD
AND GALVAN?
HE'S MADE HIS CHOICE
AND IF THE REST OF THE ATLANTEANS MAKE THE SAME ONE WE'D BETTER GET USED TO CALLING THIS PLACE HOME
HOME
MY THOUGHTS EXACTLY
FOR NOW LET'S GET OUT OF THE WEATHER WHO KNOWS WHAT'S IN THIS RAIN?
YOU COMING, VER?
IN A MINUTE

THERE'S MORE *STARS* NOW THAN BEFORE
YOU MEAN BACK *BEFORE* YOU WENT INTO STASIS?
ACTUALLY, THEY WERE *ALWAYS* THERE
IT'S JUST THAT THE LIGHT HAS HAD ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND YEARS TO *REACH* US
THINKING ABOUT YOUR MOM?
YES, GEROMI
I CAN'T *WAIT* UNTIL SHE WAKES UP TO SEE THIS

Grid SE-877648-AU
coordinates 132-098
Optimal trajectory
configured.
TERRA COGNITO
Landing
footprint
actualized.
Planetary body
designate: Earth.
Target:
ATLANTIS.

STORYTELLERS

Chuck **DIXON**
WRITER

Steve **EPTING**
PENCILER

Roland **PARIS**
INKER

Frank **D'ARMATA**
COLORIST

Oscar **GONGORA**
LETTERER

Mark Alessi
PUBLISHER & CEO

Gina M. Villa
CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER

Michael A. Beattie
CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

Jennifer Hernandez
GENERAL COUNSEL

Tony Panaccio
VICE PRESIDENT
PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT

Chris Oarr
VICE PRESIDENT
SALES & MARKETING

Robert Boyd
DIRECTOR OF
MARKETING

James Breitbeil
DIRECTOR
MARKETING & DISTRIBUTION

Ian M. Feller
DIRECTOR
CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS

Courtland Whited
MIS D RECTOR

Gabo Mendoza
NTERNET SERVICES DIRECTOR

Charles Decker
DIRECTOR
PRODUCTION CONTROL

Brian M. Soltis
CONTROLLER

Brandon Peterson
VICE PRESIDENT
SPECIAL PROJECTS

Barbara Kesel
HEAD WRITER

Bart Sears
ART DIRECTOR

Michelle Pugliese
FREELANCE COORDINATOR

Michael Atiyeh
Butch Guice
Dave Lanphear
Rick Magyar
Laura DePuy Martin
Mark Pennington
Andy Smith
ASSISTANT
ART DIRECTORS

Pam Davies
VICE PRESIDENT
PRODUCTION

Sylvia Bretz
PRODUCTION SUPERVISOR
ADVERTISING WEB

Erin Flanagan
WEB DESIGNER

Janet Bechtle
PRODUCTION SUPERVISOR
BOOKS

Randy Martin
PRODUCTION DESIGNER

CROSSGEN®
CGE
www.cgentertainment.com
24
APRIL
$2.95
$4.75 CAN
Chuck Dixon
Steve Epting
Roland Paris
Frank D'Armata
www.crossgen.com

THE STORY THUS FAR...

THEY WERE THE ATLANTEANS,

a peaceful civilization of artists and philosophers who used their phenomenal mental and physical skills to build an island utopia. They had but one responsibility: to guide and shepherd Earth's newborn race of *homo sapiens* towards a grand and glorious destiny. But when a mysterious cataclysm plunged Atlantis and its people beneath the waves, six – and only six – were awakened by a nameless stranger one thousand centuries later to find their utopia forgotten and in ruins, their brothers and sisters caught in an unshakeable slumber...and the human race gone, having vanished centuries ago in the Transition, a passage to a higher plane of existence.

Aristophanes and the newly awakened Atlanteans have massacred an entire Terra Cognito strike force. Galvan was an unwitting accomplice to this slaughter. Now, Terra Cognito has targeted Atlantis for destruction even as a massive army of Negation warriors nears the ancient city.

The mental and physical abilities of the Atlanteans are identical in nature but not in application. Capricia and her teammates have each channeled their abilities into different skills:

CAPRICIA	DANIK	TUG	ZEPHYRE	GALVAN	VERITYN
Shapeshifter and empath	Keeper of the secrets	Telekinetic strongman	Hypermetabolic intellectual	Manipulator of the electromagnetic spectrum	Seer of all truths

Crux® Vol. 1 Issue 24 APRIL 2003 FIRST PRINTING Published by CG Entertainment Inc. Office of publication: 4023 Tampa Road, Suite 2400, Oldsmar, Florida 34677. Crux®, CrossGen®, CrossGen Comics®, CrossGeneration®, CrossGeneration Comics®, and the CrossGen sigil® are registered trademarks of CrossGeneration Comics, Inc. The CG Entertainment logo™ and all prominent Crux® characters and images are Trademark and Copyright 2003 CrossGeneration Comics, Inc. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. The stories, incidents and characters in this publication are fictional. Any similarities to persons, living or dead are purely coincidental. With the exception of artwork used for review purposes, none of the contents of this book may be reproduced in any form without the express written consent of CrossGeneration Comics, Inc. PRINTED IN CANADA

Planet designate SYS00001-SOL3 called Earth. Environment is partially geoformed and reconstructed by Terra Cognito. However, significant portions remain in wilderness state with hostile lifeforms roaming freely

Planet is undergoing evaluation for its worth as a theme-destination

Intense psi-studies display recent marked increase in origin-creation nostalgia for the "home planet."

Terra Cogn to exploring possible psi/cyber probe market ng to promote travel to So system for YP64+ demographic frame

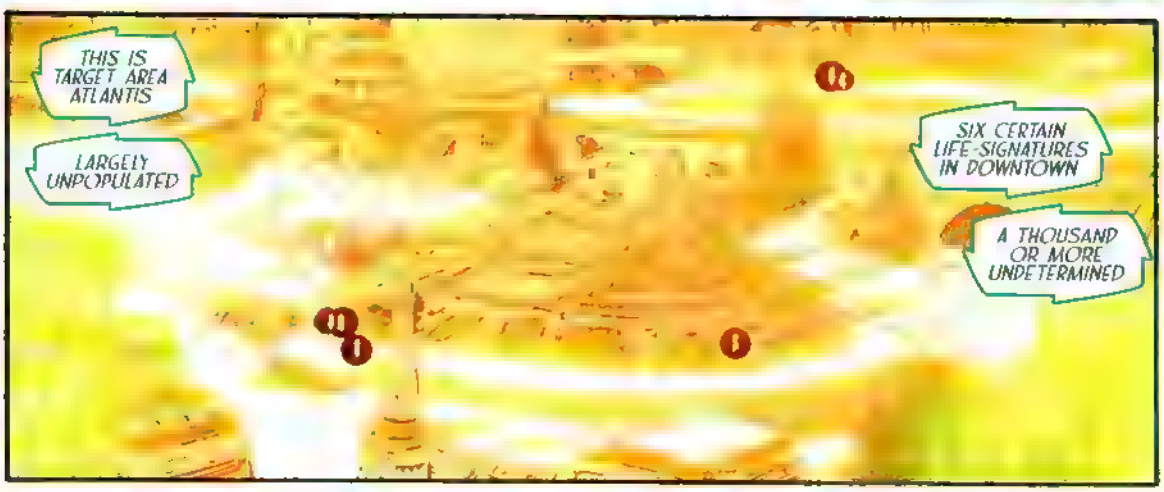
Most species are catalogued and are consistent with last planetary census in 89K356.

However, evidence suggests the presence of xenoforms either new to Earth's eco-sphere or introduced since last survey

These beings will be assessed on sentence scales and either be removed or sanctioned

Despite its familiarity, Earth's environmental profile contains unanticipated fauna
The origin of these is unclear. It is apparent that they have not developed in the planet's current biological climate
Data strongly suggests an extraterrestrial interference
Simple extermination may be most expedient, but capture for future study and/or exhibition should be factored into cost-effective analysis

Infestation from xenobiological entities not of primary concern in the redevelopment of planet
More pressing is the presence of so-called Atlanteans who have put forward a baseless prior claim to planet and environs
These are currently being dealt with by TerCog security forces under the direction of Finance Minister Chairman Benedict


THIS IS TARGET AREA ATLANTIS
LARGELY UNPOPULATED
SIX CERTAIN LIFE-SIGNATURES IN DOWNTOWN
A THOUSAND OR MORE UNDETERMINED

THEY *APPEAR* TO BE HUMANOID LIFE-FORMS IN A STASIS OR COMATOSE CONDITION

LET'S RUN DEEPER SCANS HIGHLIGHTING RADIATION OR DEGENERATE MATTER

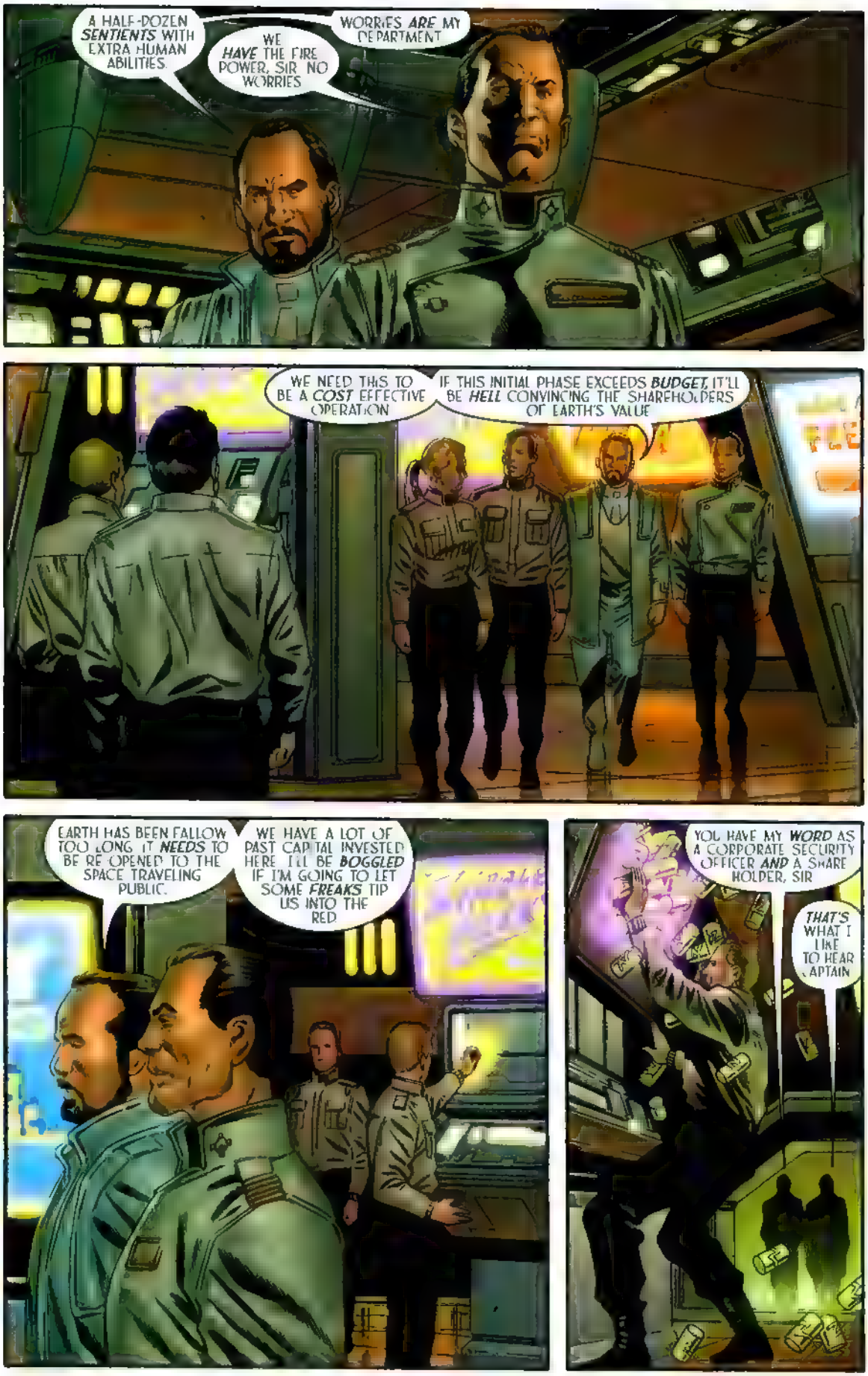
RESETTING PROBE DEPTH

THINGS GO AS *PLANNED*, CAPTAIN?

RUNNING TO FORM *SO* FAR, CHAIRMAN BENEDICT

NO *UNFORESEEN* CIRCUMSTANCES, THEN?

WE HAVE A GOOD IDEA WHAT WE'RE *UP* AGAINST

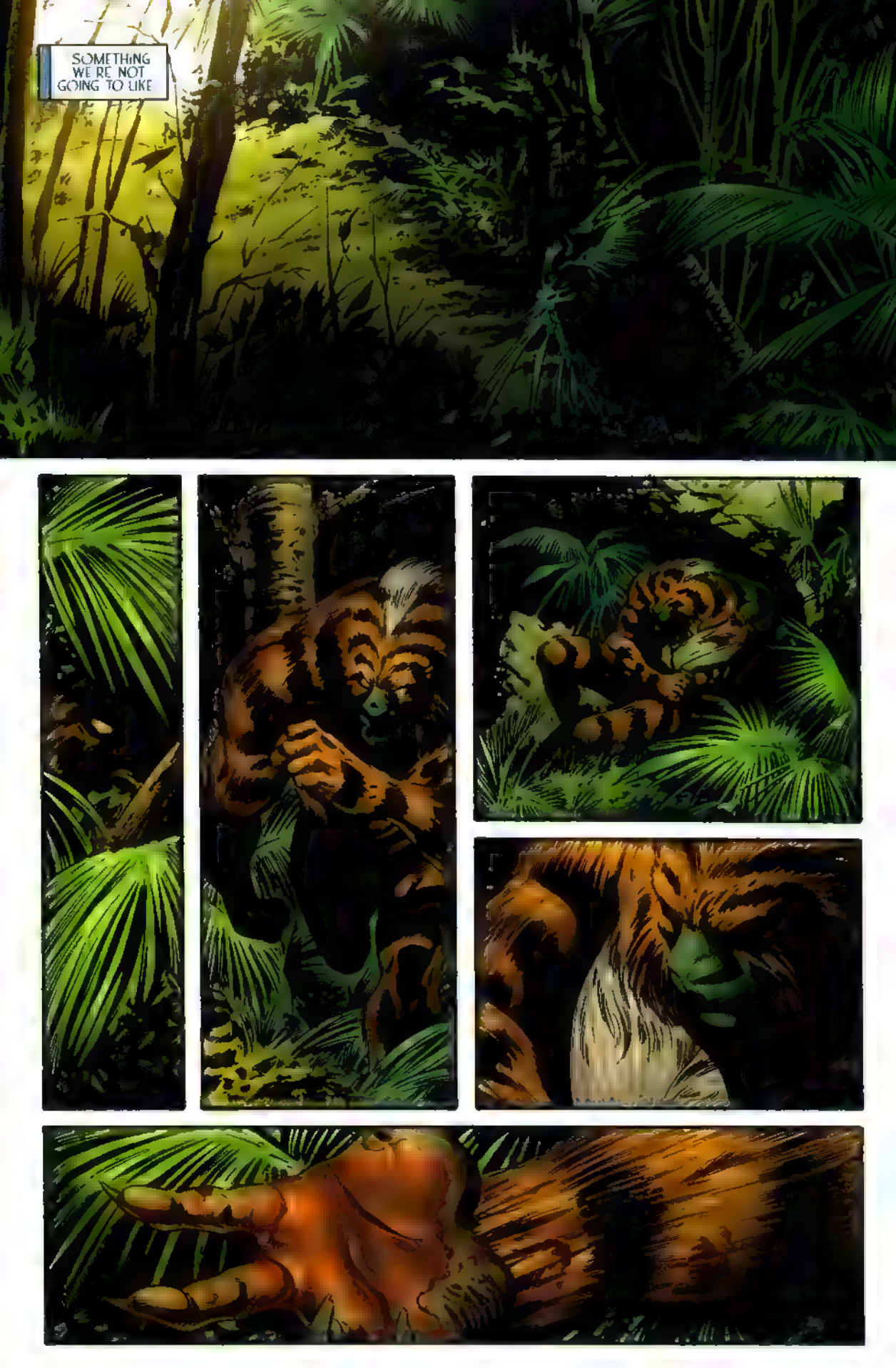

A HALF-DOZEN SENTIENTS WITH EXTRA HUMAN ABILITIES.
WE HAVE THE FIRE POWER, SIR NO WORRIES
WORRIES ARE MY DEPARTMENT
WE NEED THIS TO BE A COST EFFECTIVE OPERATION
IF THIS INITIAL PHASE EXCEEDS BUDGET, IT'LL BE HELL CONVINCING THE SHAREHOLDERS OF EARTH'S VALUE
EARTH HAS BEEN FALLOW TOO LONG IT NEEDS TO BE RE OPENED TO THE SPACE TRAVELING PUBLIC.
WE HAVE A LOT OF PAST CAPITAL INVESTED HERE I'LL BE BOGGLED IF I'M GOING TO LET SOME FREAKS TIP US INTO THE RED
YOU HAVE MY WORD AS A CORPORATE SECURITY OFFICER AND A SHARE HOLDER, SIR
THAT'S WHAT I LIKE TO HEAR CAPTAIN

THOSE ATLANTEAN FREELOADERS DON'T STAND *CHANCE*
TRY *HARDER*, GALVAN
I CAN'T *REACH* HIM ARISTOPHANES
YOU *HAVE* THE LINK. YOU CAN *BREACH* THE WALL
I
YOU *MUST*
I *CAN'T!*
I CAN'T REACH *GAMMID*
YOU DID ONCE *BEFORE*
THAT *WASN'T* MY BROTHER. THAT WAS THE MONSTER YOU *KILLED* -THE ONE YOU *SAVED* ME FROM
BUT IT *PROVES* THAT CONTACT *CAN* BE MADE WITH THE NEGATION UNIVERSE
YOUR CLOSE ASSOCIATION WITH YOUR *BROTHER* IS THE KEY
UNLESS GAMMID IS *DEAD*

HE LIVES. HE FIGHTS. HE SURVIVES.
YOU SAID YOU COULD FEEL THAT
MAYBE WHAT I FEEL IS WISHFUL THINKING
I CANNOT AWAKEN OUR ATLANTEAN BRETHREN IF I AM BLIND TO THE NEGATION'S PLANS
YOU MUST CONTINUE TRYING TO MAKE CONTACT
ALL OF OUR FUTURES RIDE ON THIS.
I'LL TRY, ARISTOPHANES.
WHY DID GALVAN BETRAY US?

GALVAN DIDN'T BETRAY US, ZEPHYRE
HE SIDED WITH ARISTOPHANES AND THE OTHERS
THEY'RE NOT AGAINST US
THEY THINK THEY'RE DOING THE RIGHT THING FOR ATLANTIS
CAPRICIA WOULDN'T THINK SO
CAPRICIA'S ON ONE OF HER LITTLE TRIPS WITH DANIK
I HAVE A FEELING IT ALL TIES IN WITH THIS NEGATON AND THE FATE OF ATLANTIS

SO WHY THROW US *OUT?* AND WHY DID *YOU* BRING US HERE TO HELL YA?
EL *AY,* ZEPH
ARISTOPHANES THOUGHT WE'D BE IN THE *WAY*
AND THERE ARE THINGS HERE I CAN *USE*
USE? USE FOR *WHAT?*
IN CASE I'M WRONG ABOUT ARISTOPHANES
BUT YOU *SAID* HE HAD THE RIGHT INTENTIONS.
THEY MAKE SENSE TO *HIM* AND TO *GALVAN*
I STILL HAVE THE FEELING SOMETHING'S *HEADING* OUR WAY


SOMETHING WE'RE NOT GOING TO LIKE

'HAVING FUN YET?'

SURE, GEROM LOADS OF FUN
IT'S YOUR MOM, RIGHT?
HOW'D YOU KNOW?

I HAVEN'T SEEN MY MOTHER IN YEARS, VERITYN. YOU HAVEN'T SEEN YOURS IN CENTURIES
MUST HURT TO SEE HER AND THEN HAVE HER TAKEN AWAY
IT WASN'T FAIR

THAT CREEPY AMATUS MADE ME THINK I WAS WITH HER
BUT SHE'S STILL IN STASIS WITH THE OTHER ATLANTEANS
IF THERE'S ANYTHING I CAN-

WOW!
LOOK AT THIS, GER!
...

WHAT *IS* THAT?

IT'S A *WARSHIP* THEY CALLED IT AN *AIRPLANE* CARRIER

*AIR*PLANE? THE MACHINES ON TOP OF IT CAN *FLY*?

THAT BOAT IS A FLOATING *MUSEUM* IT WAS ONE OF THE *TERRA COGNITO* ATTRACTIONS

SO, DO THEY WORK LIKE THE FLYING MACHINES WE HAD IN *ATLANTIS*?

I DONT KNOW HOW *YOUR* AIRCRAFT WORKED SOME OF *THESE* HAVE INTERNAL COMBUSTION ENGINES

THEY RUN ON *FOSSIL* FUELS?

HOW HARD ARE THEY TO *FLY*?

WE LOOK TO THE FUTURE

AND AS WE LOOK TO WHAT IS TO COME WE ALSO LOOK TO WHAT HAS *PASSED.*
NEW DISCOVERIES OF TRIDIUM IN THE CALADESUS QUADRANT WILL CAUSE THE CREATION OF A NEW TACH-LANE
IT COMES FROM THE POP CENTRAL WORLDS RIGHT PAST--
--*EARTH*
AND THAT MAKES *THIS* PIECE OF *TERRA COGNITO* REAL ESTATE AN AFFORDABLE DESTINATION SPOT FOR VACATIONING FAMILIES
AND WHY *SHOULD* THEY STOP HERE? WHY NOT MAKE THE TACH-JUMP RIGHT FROM A WORLD BASED IN POP CENTRAL?
BECAUSE WE'VE *PARTNERED* OURSELVES WITH THE THREE MAJOR OFFWORLD TRANSPORT COMPANIES.
WE GET PAYING CUSTOMERS AND *THEY* GET A PIECE OF OUR ACTION.

EVERYONE'S HAPPY
WOO-HOO!
VERITYN— PLEASE BE CAREFUL
WE GOTTA SHOW TUG! HE'LL LOVE THIS!
I'M NOT SURE HE'D BE SO THRILLED TO SEE YOU FLYING THIS ANTIQUE, VER!
IT'S EASY, GEROMI! LIFT AND DRAG AND DON'T GIVE IT TOO MUCH ACCELERATION
SURE EASY
RV

MAYBE *YOU* WANT TO BE THE PILOT, GEROMI?

YOU'RE *DOING* FINE! JUST *KEEP* YOUR EYES ON THE -- SKY

YOU SHOULD RELAX

THERE'S NOTHING TO *WORRY* ABOUT

SLADE'S LAUGH

THIS IS *IT*? YOUR BIG *PLAN*?
I'M *THINKING*, ZEPHYRE
IT LOOKS MORE LIKE YOU'RE *VEGETATING*, TUG
YOU'RE AN INFORMATION ADDICT. I THOUGHT YOU'D *LOVE* EXPLORING EVERYTHING WE MISSED WHEN WE WERE ASLEEP
WAS THIS SOME KIND OF *WAR*?
I THINK IT MIGHT BE A *SPORT*
TUG
ZEPHYRE
YOU MUST RETURN TO ATLANTIS
NOW

STORYTELLERS

Chuck **DIXON**
WRITER

Steve **EPTING**
PENCILER

Roland **PARIS**
INKER

Frank **D'ARMATA**
COLORIST

Dave **LANPHEAR**
LETTERER

Mark Alessi
PUBLISHER & CEO

Gina M. Villa
CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER

Michael A. Beattie
CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

Jennifer Hernandez
GENERAL COUNSEL

Jim Stikeleather
CHIEF TECHNICAL OFFICER

Tony Penaccio
VICE PRESIDENT
PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT

Chris Carr
VICE PRESIDENT
SALES & MARKETING

Robert Boyd
DIRECTOR OF
MARKETING

James Breitbeil
DIRECTOR
MARKETING & DISTRIBUTION

Ian M. Feller
DIRECTOR
CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS

Courtland Whited
MIS DIRECTOR

Gabo Mendoza
INTERNET SERVICES DIRECTOR

Charles Decker
DIRECTOR
PRODUCTION CONTROL

Brian M. Soltis
CONTROLLER

Brandon Peterson
VICE PRESIDENT
SPECIAL PROJECTS

Barbara Kesel
HEAD WRITER

Bart Sears
ART DIRECTOR

Michelle Pugliese
FREELANCE COORDINATOR

Michael Atiyeh
Butch Guice
Dave Lanphear
Rick Magyar
Laura DePuy Martin
Mark Pennington
Andy Smith
ASSISTANT
ART DIRECTORS

Pam Davies
VICE PRESIDENT
PRODUCTION

Sylvia Bretz
PRODUCTION SUPERVISOR
ADVERTISING/WEB

Janet Bechtle
PRODUCTION SUPERVISOR
BOOKS

Randy Martin
Erin Flanagan
PRODUCTION DESIGNERS

Marisol Quintana
PRODUCTION ASSISTANT

CRUX
CGE
WWW.CGENTERTAINMENT.COM
$2.95
$4.75 CAN
www.crossgen.com
Derek Dixon · Steven Epting · Roland Paris · Frank D'Armata
25
MAY

THE STORY THUS FAR...

THEY WERE THE ATLANTEANS,

a peaceful civilization of artists and philosophers who used their phenomenal mental and physical skills to build an island utopia. They had but one responsibility: to guide and shepherd Earth's newborn race of *homo sapiens* towards a grand and glorious destiny. But when a mysterious cataclysm plunged Atlantis and its people beneath the waves, six – and only six – were awakened by a nameless stranger one thousand centuries later to find their utopia forgotten and in ruins, their brothers and sisters caught in an unshakeable slumber...and the human race gone, having vanished centuries ago in the Transition, a passage to a higher plane of existence.

Tug, Zephyre and Verityn have been banished from their home by Aristophanes and must live in the ancient city of El-Ay. But there is no peace for them there as scouts for a massive Negation incursion find them.

The mental and physical abilities of the Atlanteans are identical in nature but not in application Capricia and her teammates have each channeled their abilities into different skills:

CAPRICIA	DANIX	- TUG -	ZEPHYRE	GALVAN	VERITYN
Shapeshifter and empath	Keeper of the secrets	Telekinetic strongman	Hypermetabolic intellectual	Manipulator of the electromagnetic spectrum	Seer of all truths

Crux® Vol. 1 Issue 25 MAY 2003 FIRST PRINTING Published by CrossGen Comics LLC Office of publication: 4023 Tampa Road Suite 2400 Oldsmar Florida 34677 Crux® CrossGen® CrossGen Comics® CrossGeneration® and the CrossGen sigil® are registered trademarks of CrossGen Intellectual Property LLC The CGE logo™ and all prominent Crux® characters and images are Trademark and Copyright 2003 CrossGen Intellectual Property LLC ALL RIGHTS RESERVED The stories incidents and characters in this publication are fictional Any similarities to persons living or dead are purely coincidental With the exception of artwork used for review purposes none of the contents of this book may be reproduced in any form without the express written consent of CrossGen Comics LLC PRINTED IN CANADA

WHAT'S GOING *ON*, VERITYN?
WHY ARE YOU ASKING *ME*?
EVERY TIME SOMETHING *WEIRD* HAPPENS YOU ATLANTEANS KNOW WHAT IT IS

NOT THIS *TIME*, GEROMI

"BALANCE MUST BE RESTORED"

WE NEAR THE HOUR OF THE UNIVERSE'S *GREATEST* PERIL
YOU TOOK *CAPRICIA* WITH YOU, DANIK. WHERE IS SHE?
SHE IS SERVING A *GRAND* ROLE IN THE EVENTS TO COME
IS IT JUST *ME*? AM I THE *ONLY* ONE LOST HERE?
YOU DROP IN FROM *WHO* KNOWS WHERE WITH *THESE* TWO AND *GIFT* US WITH A FEW CRYPTIC REMARKS
PERSONALLY, *I'M* LOSING INTEREST. CAN WE GET SOME *HARD* ANSWERS HERE?
THEY *WILL* BE HARD TUG
DO YOU *STILL* CARE TO ASK?

WHERE'S CAPRICIA?
MANY HUNDREDS OF LIGHT YEARS FROM HERE
DOES THIS PLACE HAVE A NAME?
IT IS CALLED GAIA
HEY I USED TO BE TALLER THAN YOU, RIGHT?
I CHANGE MASS AT WILL
Huh?
THAT'S YOUR QUESTION, TUG?
I WANT TO KNOW IF CAPRICIA IS SAFE SHE TOLD ME YOU EXPECTED HER TO MAKE SOME GREAT SACRIFICE
SACRIFICE?
YOU SENT HER TO DIE FOR YOU?
THERE ARE OTHER FORMS OF SACRIFICE TUG
FOR EXAMPLE?
CAPRICIA IS TO HAVE A CHILD
CONGRATULATIONS

BY ITS VERY NATURE THAT IS *NOT* THE MOST URGENT MATTER FACING US

"BUT REST ASSURED THAT CAPRICIA IS *SAFE*

"FOR *NOW*

YOU SAY YOU'RE ON URGENT BUSINESS?

HOW DO YOU KNOW SAMANDAHI REY?

WHAT IS YOUR HOME WORLD?

IT'S A PLANET IN THE *SOL* SYSTEM FAR FROM HERE

I HAVE NEVER *MET* SAMANDAHI REY

AND MY "*BUSINESS*" IS *NONE* OF YOUR CONCERN

YOU SHOW UP ON GAIA FROM THIN AIR
YOU START ASKING TO SEE THE COMMANDER OF ALL OF THE PLANETARY UNION'S FORCES
DID YOU KNOW THERE'S A WAR ON?
OH, THERE'S A WAR, ALL RIGHT
BUT NOT THIS LITTLE SLAP FIGHT YOU'VE GOT GOING WITH THESE SAURIANS
REALLY? WHO'S THE ENEMY IN YOUR WAR?
THEY'RE CALLED THE NEGATION
AND I SUPPOSE YOU WANT TO WARN COMMANDER REY AND HELP SAVE THE UNIVERSE
URRRN!
EXACTLY
SECURITY! SAURIAN INFILTRATOR!

YOU STUPID FOOLS!
THERE'S NO TIME FOR THIS!
SHE'S A SHAPESHIFTER!
TAKE ME TO SAMANDAHL REY!
OR GET OUT OF MY WAY!
UNNH!

SO, YOU DON'T KNOW WHERE THESE GUYS CAME FROM?
THEY'RE NOT TERRA COGNITO, VER!
THAT MEANS THEY'RE NEGATION HANG ON!
TO WHAT?
YOUR LUNCH!
THERE'S ALL KINDS OF DIFFERENT SPECIES IN THE NEGATION
WE'RE ALWAYS SEEING NEW ONES
HOW DO I ACCESS THE WEAPONS, GEROMI?
WEAPONS?
-UNNH!-

USAF
YOU SAID THIS WAS A WAR MACHINE
HOW DO I FIRE THE RAY CANNONS OR MISSILES OR WHATEVER?
WE'LL SURPRISE THESE UGLIES, huh?
THIS AIRPLANE ISN'T ARMED
WHAT?
WE GOT IT FROM A MUSEUM, VERI'
CHANGE IN STRATEGY, THEN
WE RUN!
USAF

"THE OTHER ASSAULTS WERE *DIVERSIONS* OR *SURGICAL* STRIKES THAT FAILED

"THEY ATTACK IN *EARNEST* NOW

"WE WILL FEEL THE *FULL* WEIGHT OF THE NEGATION UPON US SOON"

AND WE *MUST* BE PREPARED

THE TASK OF VICTORY FALLS TO *YOU*

THIS IS *OLD* NEWS DANIK. WE'VE *BEEN* FIGHTING THE GOOD FIGHT
WITHOUT ANY KIND OF LONG TERM HELP FROM *YOU*
WE ARE *GREATER* IN NUMBER NOW
WE *CAN* MATCH THE FORCE APPLIED AGAINST US
YOU MEAN *THESE* TWO?
LAST TIME THEY CAME TO "*HELP*" WE WERE NEARLY *KILLED*
I MEAN ARISTOPHANES AND HIS A.. IES
HE'S A WARRIOR THERE IS MUCH TO LEARN FROM HIM
THE GILDED DAYS OF ATLANTIS. OUR "*CIVILIZATION*," LEFT US *ILL* PREPARED FOR WHAT ..ES AHEAD
ARISTOPHANES?
HE'S A HOSTILE AUTOCRATIC *TYRANT!*
AND THOSE ARE HIS *GOOD* POINTS

I APPRECIATE THAT YOU SPEAK IN JEST
BUT YOUR WORDS BEAR TRUTH ARISTOPHANES' ARCANE NOTIONS OF LEADERSHIP ARE PRECISELY WHAT IS NEEDED NOW
AND WHAT ARE THESE TWO ALONG FOR?
HEY WE HAVE NAMES
GANNISH AND YALA HAVE A STAKE IN THIS AS WELL
AS DOES EVERY LIVING BEING IN THIS UNIVERSE
AND WHY IS CAPRICIA OFF HAVING A BABY?
A GOOD GENERAL MAKES PLANS FOR CONTINGENCIES
SHOULD WE FAIL--
SOMEONE MUST CARRY ON OUR STRUGGLE

IT'S TOO *TIGHT*, VERITY!
TOO TIGHT FOR *THEM*, TOO! YOU HAVE TO CALM *DOWN*, GEROM!
RV
HOW? ALL I CAN SEE IS US *CRASHING!*
THEN DON'T *LOOK!*
SEE? WE MADE THEM DITCH!
HA!
NOT *BAD* FOR A CARBON FUEL BURNING OLD ANTIQUE!
WE CAN LOSE THE *REST* OF THEM NO

UH?
THEY'RE AMPHIB!
OW!
AMPHIB ANS I NOTICED
LOOKS LIKE WE'RE GOING TO FIND OUT HOW HIGH AND HOW FAST THIS AIR O PLANE CAN FLY
OOOHHHH

HEY!
WHAT'S GOING ON?
I LOST POWER!
YOU CLIMBED TOO STEEP THE ENGINE STALLED
STALLED?
WHAT'S THAT MEAN?
USAF
IT MEANS WE'VE GOT NO POWER!
YOU DIDN'T MENTION THIS PART, GEROM!

KEEP IT FROM GOING INTO A SPIN!
AND I DO THAT HOW?
BRING IT LEVEL, VERI! WE CAN STILL GLIDE!
THERE'S THE MUSEUM!
WE MIGHT MAKE IT...
OR NOT
NOSE UP, VERITY! NOSE UP!

MADE IT GEROM!

AND THE FLYING FISHGUYS DIDN'T!

WHAT EXACTLY HAPPENED THERE?

I THINK I KNOW COME ON!

NICE WORK, DANIK THEY A. MOST HAD US

THOSE WERE BUT A HANDFUL OF A LEGION, YOUNG VERITYN

YOU HAD US SO WORRIED!

HEY, THOSE TWO ARE BACK?

WE WERE INVITED, KID

MAKES ME WONDER

WHO ELSE IS GOING TO SHOW UP?

THRAXIS!
HE'S STILL ALIVE, BUT HE'S HURT BAD
HE CAME LOOKING FOR ME TO TELL ME
THERE'S MILLIONS OF NEGATION SOLDIERS AND MONSTERS HEADING STRAIGHT FOR
ATLANTIS.

STORYTELLERS

Chuck **DIXON**
WRITER

Steve **EPTING**
PENCILER

Roland **PARIS**
INKER

Frank **D'ARMATA**
COLORIST

Dave **LANPHEAR**
LETTERER

The CrossGen Universe
Mark Alessi &
Laura Martin

Thanks to Steve and Frank on their final issue of CRUX
They made me everthing I am today. —Veritγn

Steve and Frank set sail with Chuck for the Spanish Main and the Golden Age of Piracy in *EL CAZADOR*
Coming this fall from CrossGen!

Who's Drawing CRUX now? Look through the following pages to see!

Publisher & CEO • **Mark Alessi**
Director of Conventions & Facilities • **John Smith**
Senior Vice President Chief Creative Officer • **Gina M. Villa**
Vice President Writing Development • **Barbara Kesel**
Director Ancillary Publishing • **Ian M. Feller**
Director of Production Control • **Charles Decker**
Senior Vice President Chief Financial Officer • **Michael A. Beattie**
Controller • **Brian Soltis**
Director of Human Resources • **Karla Barnett**
Office Manager • **Shirley Burdett**
Senior Vice President General Counsel • **Jennifer Hernandez**
Senior Vice President Chief Technology Officer • **Jim Stikeleather**
Director of Information Technology • **Courtland Whited**
Internet Services Director • **Gabe Mendoza**

Senior Vice President Product Development • **Tony Panaccio**
Director of Marketing & Communications • **Bill Rosemann**
Vice President Sales • **Chris Carr**
Director of Sales Book Trade • **Robert Boyd**
Director of Sales Direct & Foreign Markets • **James Breitbeil**
Vice President Special Projects • **Brandon Peterson**
Vice President Art Director • **Bart Sears**
Assistant Art Directors • **Michael Atiyeh, Butch Guice, Dave Lanphear, Rick Magyar, Laura Martin, Mark Pennington, Andy Smith**
Freelance Coordinator • **Michelle Pugliese**
Vice President Production • **Pam Davies**
Production Supervisor Advertising/Web • **Sylvia Bretz**
Production Supervisor Books • **Janet Bechtle**
Production Designers • **Erin Flanagan & Randy Martin**
Production Assistant • **Marisol Quintana**

Here's just a glimpse of what *Sergio Canello* will be bringing to the pages of **CRUX** in upcoming issues. There's only a few artists who could take what Steve Epting started and make it their own. Sergio was on a short list of pencilers who have what it takes. Be here for issue #28 for his premiere with *Roland Paris* on inks and *Laura Villari* on colors as **CRUX** moves into a bold new storyline that will shake the CrossGen Universe to its foundations!

— Chuck

CGE
WWW.CGENTERTAINMENT.COM
26
JUNE
$2.95
$4.75 CAN
www.crossgen.com
CROSSGEN
Chuck Dixon
Paul Ryan
Pablo Marcos
Laura Villari
"Full of compelling characters and situations!"
—Library Journal

THE STORY THUS FAR...

THEY WERE THE ATLANTEANS,

a peaceful civilization of artists and philosophers who used their phenomenal mental and physical skills to build an island utopia. They had but one responsibility: to guide and shepherd Earth's newborn race of *homo sapiens* towards a grand and glorious destiny. But when a mysterious cataclysm plunged Atlantis and its people beneath the waves, six – and only six – were awakened by a nameless stranger one thousand centuries later to find their utopia forgotten and in ruins, their brothers and sisters caught in an unshakeable slumber...and the human race gone, having vanished centuries ago in the Transition, a passage to a higher plane of existence.

Terra Cognito, the corporation that manages the abandoned planet Earth, has returned to renew its claim on its property. To do this, the current residents must be evicted. But these are not the Atlanteans Terra Cognito faced the last time.

The mental and physical abilities of the Atlanteans are identical in nature but not in application. Capricia and her teammates have each chosen [illegible] skills:

CAPRICIA — Shapeshifter and empath

DANIK — Keeper of the secrets

TUG — Telekinetic strongman

ZEPHYRE — Hypermetabolic intellectual

GALVAN — Manipulator of the electromagnetic spectrum

VERITYN — Seer of all truths

Crux® Vol. 1 Issue 26 JUNE 2003 FIRST PRINTING Published by CrossGen Comics LLC Office of publication: Tampa Road, Suite 2400 Oldsmar, Florida 34677 Crux® CrossGen® CrossGen Comics® CrossGenerations and the CrossGen sigil® are registered trademarks of CrossGen Intellectual Property LLC The CGE logo and all prominent Crux® characters and images are trademark and Copyright 2003 CrossGen Intellectual Property LLC ALL RIGHTS RESERVED The stories, incidents and characters in this publication are fictional. Any similarity to persons living or dead are purely coincidental. With the exception of artwork used for review purposes, none of the contents may be reproduced in any form without the express written consent of CrossGen Comics LLC

Terra Cognita
Insertion
Team Cinco
SECURE FOR DROP
MAKE READY FOR
GRAVITY EFFECT
ANYONE KNOW
WHAT KIND OF
RESISTANCE WE'RE
EXPECTING?
I'M
JUST ANOTHER
FUNGUS, TROOP
KEPT IN THE
DARK AND
FED

DROP SHIP RELEASED

PLANETFALL E-XTU 12987

ALL DETECTION RANGES SHIELDED

STAY WITHIN FLIGHT PARAMETERS, RAVENCAT

WE'RE IN THE FRAME SPLASHDOWN WITHOUT A RIPPLE

NO STRAY RADS ON THE SCREEN SO FAR NO LOOK SEES

THAT'S THE WAY WE LIKE IT

TOTAL SURPRISE

ATMOSPHERICS AT PRIME PLUS 2

STAY IN SQUAD PROFILE RECEPTORS OPEN, PEOPLE

WE EXPECTING TROUBLE?

SOME KIND OF BELLIGERANTS FROM EARLIER REPS

LET'S KEEP THE GABBING TO A MINIMUM, TROOPS.

THIS IS STRICTLY AN EVICTION OPERATION

A HANDFUL OF SENTIENT HUMANS OF UNKNOWN ORIGIN SQUATTING ON TERRA COGNITO PROPERTY

THEY MOVE ON WILLINGLY OR WE TAKE THEM OFF BY FORCE

EXECUTIVE DECISION FROM THE BIG ROOM

THOUGHT YOU WERE OFF ACTIVE DUTY, RYERTON?
THEY PROMISED ME SOME *OPTIONS* IF I WENT OUT ONE MORE TIME CASS
THIS SEEMED LIKE A *WALK*
LAST TIME TEE CEE WAS HERE THEY RAN IN TO SOME *RESISTANCE*
SO THEY CALL IN THE *HAMMERS* TO SETTLE IT OUT
OPTIONS, huh?
MAINCORP OR A SUBSIDIARY?
MAINCORP THOUSAND SHARES
WOO YOU RETIRE IN *STYLE*, FRIEND
LITTLE *TOASTY* HERE
YOU'RE TELLING *ME*

AFTER THIS I HAVE OFF TIME COMING I'M THINKING OF ABLEARD SHE..!
NICE DO..A VIDAS IS MORE MY SPEED
TOO PRICEY BUT THEN YOU CAN AFFORD IT
ANOTHER FIVE BUCKS TO DOWNTOWN
PLACE LOOKS DEAD
HOLD ON--
RYERTON TO CONTROL I HAVE VISUAL
HOW MANY?
JUST ONE ADULT MALE UNARMED
READ YOUR REPORTS TROOP THESE GUYS ARE ALWAYS ARMED

SOME KIND OF POWERS?
UNCONFIRMED THEY'RE DANGEROUS
FIVE LIFE READINGS PROCEED WITH CAUTION
KEPT IN THE DARK AS ALWAYS
ADVANCE UNIT INTO PRIMARY TARGET AREA
RECEPTORS OPEN WEAPONS CHARGED
WE HAVE SIX POSSIBLES IN DOWNTOWN
THINGS GO AS PLANNED, CAPTAIN?
RUNNING TO FORM SO FAR CHAIRMAN BENEDICT
NO UNFORESEEN CIRCUMSTANCES THEN?
WE HAVE A GOOD IDEA WHAT WE'RE UP AGAINST

MISFITS DERELICTS BUNCH OF ZEALOUS FANATICS
CHAIRMAN, THE BOOLEAN MARKET NEEDS YOUR ATTENTION
NOT NOW, TYTUS
I DON'T LIKE FANATICS THEY DON'T MIND IF THEY DIE
THEN WE'LL DO THEM THE FAVOR, CAPTAIN
IT'S A RISK TO MY PEOPLE
BUSINESS IS RISK YOU CAN SUCCUMB TO IT OR USE IT TO YOUR ADVANTAGE
WE OWN THIS PLANET WE HAVE PRIORITY RIGHTS TO IT
"WE" MEANING THE HUMAN RACE?
I MEAN TERRA COGNITO UNLIMITED. FROM POLE TO POLE. IT'S ALL OURS, NICE AND LEGAL
THESE ATLANTEANS DON'T SEE IT THAT WAY
RESULTS IN TERCOG DOWN SIX RAY POINTS
YOU ARE HERE TO ADVISE ON SECURITY MATTERS
TRENDING DOWN SHARPLY AND oh
I ASK ONLY TWO THINGS FROM THIS LIFE, CAPTAIN

COMPANY LOYALTY AND A SOLID BOTTOM LINE

NO FREAKS IN SIGHT

SO, THIS IS ATLANTIS? LOOKS LIKE A DUMP

SCANS SHOW THREE LIFE READINGS HUMANOID

I THOUGHT THERE WERE SIX

SCAN SHOWS THREE NORTH OF OUR CURRENT POSITION

SIR? DID YOU SAY ONLY THREE READINGS?

YES ...

Huh?

WHAT'S THE DEAL WITH THIS PLACE?

WHAT AM I? A HISTORY BOOK?

THIS CAN'T BE *HAPPENING* WHERE'D THEY COME FROM?

I THOUGHT THE ATTRACTIONS WERE SHUT *DOWN*, KICK

THERE'S ALL *KINDS* OF ACTION HERE

LOOKS LIKE A LOT MORE THAN *THREE* WARM BODIES

JUST THREE. NONE OF THESE OTHER PEOPLE ARE REGISTERING

WELL, THEY'RE *HERE*, KICK

YOU GONNA BELIEVE YOUR SCANS OR YOUR *EYES*?

THREE READINGS. WHICH ONES ARE *REAL*?

ONE IS MOVING INTO OUR AO

HELLO

BELLIGERENT IN OUR AREA OF OPS!

HOLD IT *RIGHT* THERE LADY

NO

I THINK *YOU* SHOULD HOLD IT

SUPPORT UNIT IS DOWN!
SHE TOOK 'EM OUT WITH SOME KIND OF ENERGY WEAPON
ACQUIRE TARGET AND
FIRE!
Hm
I WAS WONDERING HOW CLOSE YOU'D CUT IT
I'M JUST SURPRISED THEY ATTACKED YOU LIKE THAT
NOW TO MAKE THEM SORRY

THEY THINK THEY OWN THIS PLANET
WE WERE HERE LONG BEFORE THEY WERE
WHY DO THEY KEEP COMING BACK?

THEY WON'T BOTHER US FOR A WHILE, BE'PHIR
AN IMPRESSIVE DISPLAY, GALVAN YOUR POWERS ARE AS STRONG AS ARISTOPHANES CLAIMED
I GUESS HE AND THE OTHERS HAVE TAKEN CARE OF THE HUMANS IN THE LANDING AREA
I DON'T DOUBT IT ARISTOPHANES IS ONE WHO SETS OUT TO ACCOMPLISH HIS GOALS
BUT HE'S A BIT STERN I PREFER A MAN WHO CAN ENJOY LIFE
UH, YOU THINK HE'LL BE BACK SOON?
I'M CERTAIN HE'S TAKEN THEIR VESSEL AND KILLED THE HUMANS BY NOW
KILLED?
WE'RE NOT SUPPOSED TO KILL ANYONE
WHY SHOULDN'T ARISTOPHANES KILL THEM?
THAT'S WHAT I'VE DONE

"AS YOU SAID, GALVAN-
" WE WERE HERE BEFORE THEM "
PLEASE
YOU SAID YOU CAN PILOT THIS SHIP, PAXTAN?
IT IS CHILD'S PLAY, ARISTOPHANES
THEN WE HAVE NO NEED OF THIS ONE
"CONTACT LOST"

MR. BENEDICT, WE HAVE A *PROBLEM*

IT HAD BETTER BE A *BIG* ONE CAPTAIN

LIFE TABS READING IN THE *NEGATIVE*, SIR

THE *WHOLE* UNIT?

EVERY *ONE*, SIR

WHAT DOES THIS *MEAN*?

WE'VE LOST CONTACT WITH THE GROUND UNITS AND THE TRANSPORT SHIP

LIFE SIGNATURES HAVE FADED THAT MEANS THEY'RE DEAD

THAT *BIG* ENOUGH FOR YOU?

THIS IS THE *LAST* THING I NEED

...A COST OVERRUN

POWELL

WE *COULD* SEND DOWN A BIGGER FORCE
AND INCUR *MORE* NEGATIVE CASH FLOW? NOT TO MENTION THE *INSURANCE* ASPECT
GET YOUR *LONG RANGE* WEAPON ON LINE, CAPTAIN
WE'LL TURN THIS – *ATLANTIS* – INTO A SMOKING CRATER AND BE *DONE* WITH IT

STORYTELLERS

Chuck **DIXON**
WRITER

Paul **RYAN**
Guest **PENCILER**

Pablo **MARCOS**
Guest **INKER**

Laura **VILLARI**
Guest **COLORIST**

Oscar **GONGORA**
LETTERER

The CrossGen Universe created by [illegible] & [illegible]

CrossGen Entertainment, Inc.
CrossGen Intellectual Property, LLC
President, Chief Executive Officer & Publisher • **Mark Alessi**
Executive Vice President, Chief Operating Officer • **Joe Pantillo**
Director of Conversions & Facilities • **John Smith**
Director of Marketing & Communications • **Bill Rosemann**
Vice President Special Projects • **Brandon Peterson**
Vice President Sales • **Chris Darr**
Director of Sales Book Trade • **Robert Boyd**
Director of Sales Direct & Foreign Markets • **James Breitbell**
Senior Vice President Chief Financial Officer • **Michael A. Beattie**
Controller • **Brian Sollis**
Director of Human Relations • **Karla Barnett**
Office Manager • **Shirley Burdett**
Senior Vice President General Counsel • **Jennifer Hernandez**
Paralegal • **Tammy Jackson**
CrossGen Education, LLC
Vice President • **Beth Widera**
CrossGen Media, LLC • CrossGen Productions, LLC
Senior Vice President Product Development • **Tony Panacchia**

MegaCon, LLC
Director • **Beth Widera**
CrossGen Technologies, LLC; CrossGen Interactive, LLC; Comics on the Web, LLC
Senior Vice President Chief Technology Officer • **Jim Stikeleather**
Director of Information Technology • **Courtland Whited**
Internet Services Director • **Gabo Mendoza**
CrossGen Publishing, LLC • CrossGen Comics, LLC, Code 6 Comics, LLC
Senior Vice President Chief Creative Officer • **Gina M. Villa**
Director Ancillary Publishing • **Ian M. Feller**
Director of Production Control • **Charles Decker**
Vice President Writing Development • **Barbara Kesel**
Vice President Art Director • **Bart Sears**
Assistant Art Directors • **Michael Atiyeh, Butch Guice, Dave Lanphear, Rick Magyar, Laura Martin, Mark Penalogion, Andy Smith**
Freelance Coordinator • **Michelle Pugliese**
Vice President Production • **Pam Davies**
Production Supervisor Advertising Web • **Sylvia Brets**
Production Supervisor Books • **Janet Rechtle**
Production Designers • **Erin Flanagan & Randy Martin**
Production Assistants • **Marisol Quintana & Ron Domingue**

"A fun read!" — Zentertainment.com
CrossGen
27
JULY
CRUX
Chuck Dixon
Paul Ryan
Pablo Marcos
Michael Garcia
USA $2.95 CAN $4.00
crossgen.com

THE STORY THUS FAR...

THEY WERE THE ATLANTEANS,

a peaceful civilization of artists and philosophers who used their phenomenal mental and physical skills to build an island utopia. They had but one responsibility: to guide and shepherd Earth's newborn race of *homo sapiens* towards a grand and glorious destiny. But when a mysterious cataclysm plunged Atlantis and its people beneath the waves, six – and only six – were awakened by a nameless stranger one thousand centuries later to find their utopia forgotten and in ruins, their brothers and sisters caught in an unshakeable slumber...and the human race gone, having vanished centuries ago in the Transition, a passage to a higher plane of existence.

An invasion force from an orbiting Terra Cognito corporate starship has been annihilated by Aristophanes and his new Atlantean allies. Now Atlantis is in the crosshairs of a space weapon even as a huge Negation army marches from the sea to destroy the ancient city of legend.

The mental and physical abilities of the Atlanteans are identical in nature but not in application. Capricia and her teammates have each channeled their abilities into different skills:

CAPRICIA	DANIK	TUG	ZEPHYRE	GALVAN	VERITYN
Shapeshifter and empath	Keeper of the secrets	Telekinetic strongman	Hypermetabolic intellectual	Manipulator of the electromagnetic spectrum	Seer of all truths

Crux® Vol. 1 Issue 27 JULY 2003 FIRST PRINTING Published by CrossGen Comics, LLC Office of publication 4023 Tampa Road Suite 24[illegible] Oldsmar Florida 34677 Crux® CrossGen® CrossGen Comics® CrossGenerator.com® and the CrossGen sigil are registered trademarks of CrossGen [illegible], LLC A prominent Crux® character's and images are Trademark and Copyright 2003 [illegible], LLC ALL RIGHTS RESERVED [illegible] events and characters in this publication are fictional. Any similarities to persons living or dead are purely coincidental. With the exception [illegible] review purposes, none of the contents of this book may be reproduced in any form without the express written consent of CrossGen Comics, LLC [illegible] CANADA

YOU KILLED THEM!
WHY?

THEY WERE *INVADING* ATLANTIS GALVAN!

I DID WHAT I *HAD* TO DO TO SAVE OUR HOME!

YOU *COULD* HAVE KNOCKED THEM OUT BELPHIR!

WITH *YOUR* POWERS YOU COULD HAVE MADE THEM TOO ILL TO FIGHT!

ALL OF THIS COMPASSION FOR SOME *HUMANS*?

SO, YOU *ARE* ONE WITH ARISTOPHANES N YOUR CONTEMPT FOR THE RACE WE SWORE TO PROTECT

YOU HEARD HIM *TOO*, GALVAN THE STAKES ARE TOO *HIGH* NOW WE HAVE *NEW* PRIORITES!

IT *IS* *WAR*, GALVAN A WAR FOR OUR *SURVIVAL*

WAR

IT IS A TIME FOR ATLANTIS TO UNITE CAN YOU NOT SEE THE WISDOM IN THAT?
WISDOM?
OR SLAUGHTER?
UNNH!
TELL ME ARISTOPHANES PLAN, BELPHIR TELL ME THE PART KEPT HIDDEN FROM ME
"WHERE HAVE HE AND THE OTHERS GONE?"
DROP SHIP RETURNED FROM PLANET SURFACE
TRANSFER INITIAL IMPACT REPORT, HAMMERS

DROP SHIP?

INITIAL IMPACT REPORT REQUESTED BATTLE AND THREAT ASSESSMENTS REQUESTED IMMEDIATELY

RESPOND, DROP SHIP

CRASH TEAM *READY* THEY MAY HAVE *WOUNDED*

COM CAPABILITIES DOWN *STILL* NO RESPONSE

OPENING AIRLOCK PREPARE FOR *CASUALTIES!*

AIR LOC

4

YES

PREPARE FOR CASUALTIES

"WHAT ARE THEY UP TO BE PHR

YOU AND THE OTHERS *LIED* TO ME
--*TRICKED* ME INTO PLAYING A PART IN THIS
WE *NEEDED* YOUR COOPERATION, GALVAN
YOU NEEDED AN *ACCOMPLICE*, YOU MEAN
YOU *BLOODIED* MY HANDS!
PLEASE--
I SENSE
YOUR *FRIENDS* HAVE RETURNED GALVAN
BUT YOU CANNOT GO *BACK* TO THEM, CAN YOU?
YOU CAN NO *LONGER* BE A SHEPHERD OF MANKIND NOW THAT YOU RUN WITH WOLVES
YOU DECEITFUL

WHAT BRINGS YOU BACK, TUG?
EVENTS SUPERCEDE YOURS AND AR STOPHANES WRONG HEADED AGENDA
THE NEGATION HAS INVADED IN GREAT FORCE IT IS A CONCERTED EFFORT TO ERADICATE US
NO HIT AND RUN, GALVAN THEY'RE SERIOUS THIS TIME
WE NEED YOUR HELP ALL OF YOU
THRAXIS IS WITH YOU AND AR STOPHANES KILLED HIM
AMATUS

MORE LIES!

VERY CONVINCING ILLUSION AMATOS!

AS USUAL, IT'S A BIT WEAK ON THE MINOR DETAILS!

WHAT'S WITH YOU PEOPLE?

IT'S NOT AN ILLUSION, GALVAN!

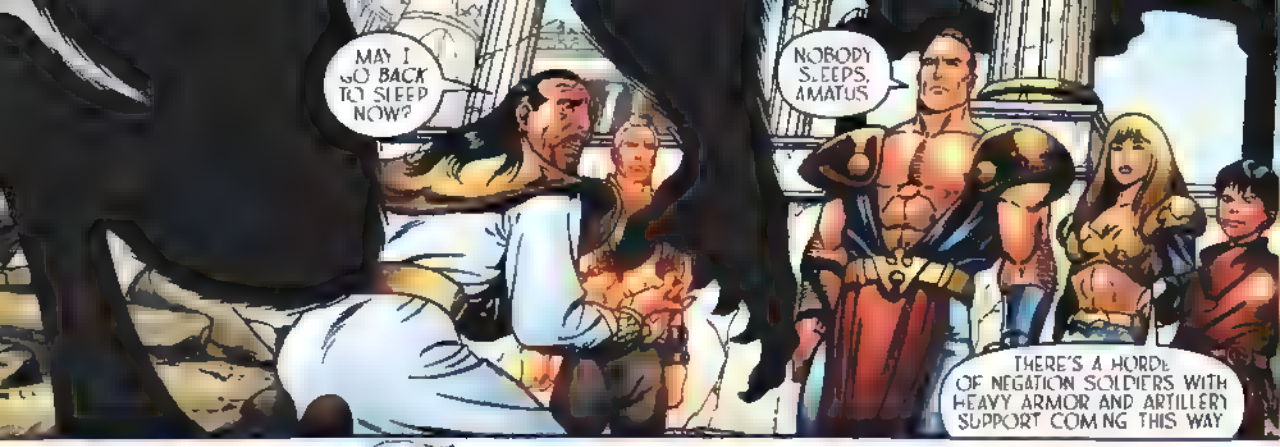
I'M THROUGH BEING PLAYED FOR A FOOL!
WHY SHOULD I BELIEVE YOU? WHY SHOULD I BELIEVE ANY ONE?
I'LL
GIVE
YOU
SOMETHING.
TO BELIEVE IN!
YOU'VE BEEN PLAYING WITH HIS MIND
THAT'S ALL HE'D LET ME PLAY WITH, ZEPHYRE
WHAT HAVE YOU MONSTERS DONE?
GALVAN
ZEPHYRE SLUGGED HIM
SAVED ME THE TROUBLE
ONE BIG HAPPY
WHERE ARE THE REST OF THEM?

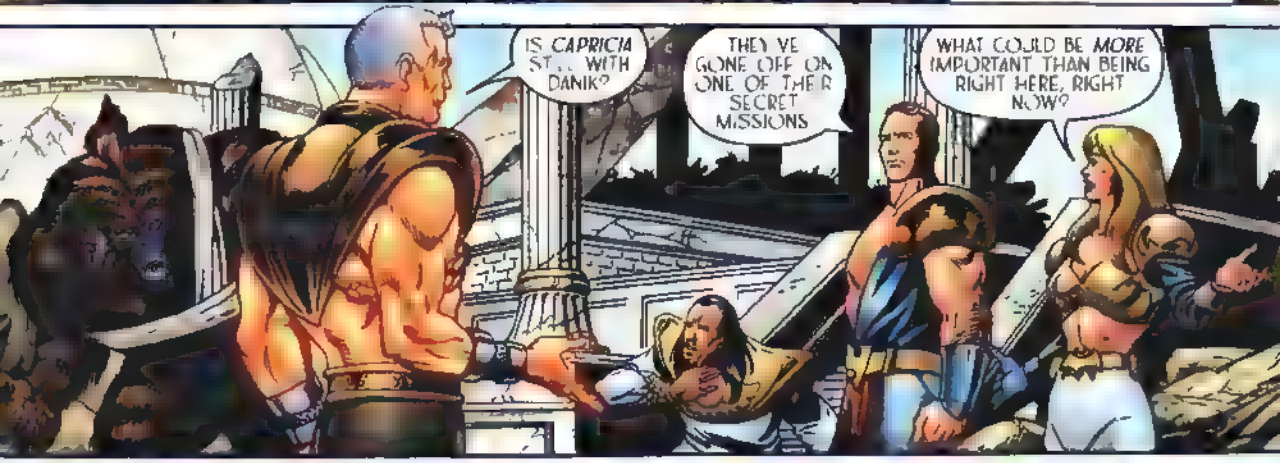
"WHERE'S ARISTOPHANES?"
LAUNCH BAY LEVEL THREE!
ALIEN HOSTILES ABOARD! THEY'RE
GAAAH!
VZZZT
ATLANTEANS MUST HAVE COMMANDEERED THE ATTACK LAUNCH
THERE CAN'T BE MANY OF THEM, CAPTAIN. DEAL WITH THEM
IT DOESN'T TAKE MANY MR. BENEDICT JUST SIX OF THEM TOOK DOWN MY BEST UNIT
THEN THE TIME HAS COME TO END THIS PO NTLESS EXERCISE IF IT S THEIR ALLEGIANCE TO THAT PILE OF RUINS THAT DRIVES THEM--

I USE MY CORPORATE AUTHORITY TO INITIATE THE *DESTRUCTION* OF ATLANTIS
U YOU'RE CERTAIN
I'M CERTAIN THAT TERRA COGNITO *OWNS* PLANET EARTH AND EVERYTHING ON *IT*--
--LIVING *OR* DEAD
VERY WELL
DEPLOY THE PLANET KILLER
"SECURITY UNITS *CONTAIN* THE INTRUDERS ON LEVEL THREE"
THESE HUMANS HAVE COME *QUITE* A WAY SINCE MY TIME...
BUT FOR ALL THEIR TECHNOLOGICAL WIZARDRY THEY ARE *STILL* BUT CATTLE
A PECULIARLY *ENERGETIC* CATTLE, ARISTOPHANES AND PRESENT IN GREAT ENOUGH NUMBER TO *TROUBLE* US
PAXTAN IS RIGHT FIND A *WEAKNESS* IN THIS VESSEL RHEZUS

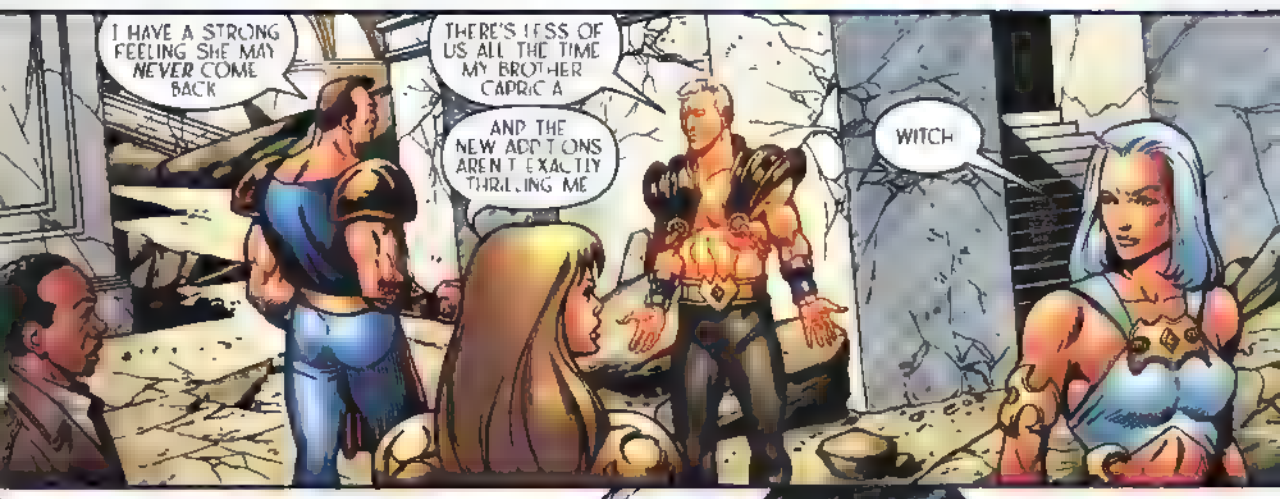
THIS IS MOST DISTRESSING
THEY HAVE ACTIVATED A WEAPONS SYSTEM
OF WHAT IMPORT IS THIS?
A SORT OF PLASMA PROJECTOR IT IS AIMED AT ATLANTIS
NO MORE RIDDLES! WHAT ARE THEIR INTENTIONS?
THIS SCIENCE IS VERY ADVANCED-
HAVE WE REACHED THE LIMIT OF RHEZUS VAUNTED KNOWLEDGE OF PHYSICAL PROPERTIES?
SILENCE YOU GELDING!
WELL!
THEY ARE JUST AMPING UP THE WEAPON'S POWER GRID IF I CAN ONLY ACCESS THEIR CONTROL SYSTEMS
"-THERE MAY BE TIME TO SAVE OUR CITY"
I DESERVED THAT, RIGHT?

MORE THAN THAT
ESPECIALLY IF YOU PLAYED ANY PART IN THE MURDER OF THOSE HUMANS
I DIDN'T, TUG!
I ONLY HELPED SUBDUE THE HUMANS--I HAD NO IDEA THEY WERE USING LETHAL FORCE
AND YOU HOPE TO ACHIEVE VICTORY THROUGH MERCY?
IF THIS IS WHAT ATLANTIS AND ATLANTEANS HAVE BECOME
SHUT UP, BELPHIR
WHERE ARE THE REST?
ARISTOPHANES, PAXTAN, AND RHEZUS CAPTURED A TERRA COGN TO SHIP AND LEFT THE PLANET
BELPHIR WON'T TELL ME THEIR PLANS
WELL, I KNOW WHERE ONE OF THEM IS
WOW. THAT OLD GUY CAN RUN
SOME ASSISTANCE!
CAN ANYONE SPEAK TO THIS CREATURE?


MAY I GO BACK TO SLEEP NOW?
NOBODY SLEEPS, AMATUS
THERE'S A HORDE OF NEGATION SOLDIERS WITH HEAVY ARMOR AND ARTILLERY SUPPORT COMING THIS WAY


IS CAPRICIA ST... WITH DANIK?
THEY'VE GONE OFF ON ONE OF THEIR SECRET MISSIONS
WHAT COULD BE MORE IMPORTANT THAN BEING RIGHT HERE, RIGHT NOW?

THE UNIVERSE, ZEPHYRE
THE WORLDS BEYOND THIS ONE


I HAVE A STRONG FEELING SHE MAY NEVER COME BACK
THERE'S LESS OF US ALL THE TIME MY BROTHER CAPRICIA
AND THE NEW ADDITIONS AREN'T EXACTLY THRILLING ME
WITCH

WE HAVE BIGGER PROBLEMS
THRAX.S SAYS THE INVADERS ARE GETTING CLOSER
SEE?

HOW DID THEY *GET* THERE WITHOUT US KNOWING?

THRAXIS FOUND A DIMENSIONAL PORTAL ON THE FLOOR OF THE *OCEAN*

THEY HAD TIME TO GATHER THEIR *LARGEST* STRIKE FORCE *YET* AND WE HAD NO IDEA

THE NEGATION IS GETTING *SMARTER* BRRR

THERE MUST BE

MILLIONS

SEVERAL *MILLION* LIFE FORM READINGS JUST APPEARED ON OUR SCANS

THEY'RE *WITHIN* THE MAIN AREA OF OPERATIONS

THERE ARE AT MOST A *DOZEN* ATLANTEANS AT LAST COUNT

WHERE ARE THESE NEW ARRIVALS *COMING* FROM?

IT'S A *TRICK* THEY'RE TRYING TO *DISTRACT* US FROM OUR PRIMARY TARGET

WE PROCEED AS *PLANNED*

TERRA COGNITO

WE *SMEAR* ATLANTIS OVER THE FACE OF THE EARTH

"IT IS OUR UNCONTESTABLE *LEGAL* RIGHT TO DO SO"

"THESE TRESPASSERS MUST BE *REMOVED*"
I HOPE YOU ARE MAKING *PROGRESS*, RHEZUS
THESE HUMANS ARE *DETERMINED* TO DO US HARM
I AM *TRYING* ARISTOPHANES
THIS CONCATENATION OF CONTROL INTERFACES CHALLENGES EVEN *MY* TALENTS
THIS INACTION IS *MADDENING*
AND THIS HUMAN PESTILENCE IS *UNENDURABLE*!
I WILL NOT ALLOW THEM TO *THWART* US!
"IT IS THE END"

THE OLD LOONY IS *RIGHT*, GUYS A MILLION TO EIGHT IS *LOSER* ODDS
THERE'S ONE CHANCE AND ONE CHANCE *ONLY* I'LL NEED YOUR *HELP*, GALVAN
WHAT DO *WE* DO, TUG?
KEEP WATCH
HOW WILL WE *SURVIVE* THIS, ZEPHYRE? SO *MANY* CREATURES
BET YOU WISH YOU WERE STILL *ASLEEP*, huh, BELPHIR?
WHAT'S YOUR *IDEA*, TUG? YOU HAVE A *WEAPON* IN MIND?
THE *GREATEST* WEAPON WE'VE GOT, GALVAN
Huh?

OVER A THOUSAND OF OUR SLUMBERING BROTHERS AND SISTERS
MORE THAN A MATCH FOR ANY NEGATION FORCE, NO MATTER THE SIZE
YOU'RE GOING TO--
--AWAKEN THE REST OF THE ATLANTEANS
IT'S EITHER THE *SUNSET* OF OUR CIVILIZATION OR THE *DAWN* OF A NEW AGE
EITHER WAY I'M *PULLING* THE SWITCH

CrossGen

28
AUG

CRUX

Chuck Dixon
Sergio Cariello
Rob Hunter
Laura Villari

02811
8 00155 98135 9
USA $2.95 CAN $4.00
crossgen.com

They Were The Atlanteans,

a peaceful civilization of artists and philosophers who used their phenomenal mental and physical skills to build an island utopia. They had but one responsibility: to guide and shepherd Earth's newborn race of *homo sapiens* towards a grand and glorious destiny. But when a mysterious cataclysm plunged Atlantis and its people beneath the waves, six – and only six – were awakened by a nameless stranger one thousand centuries later to find their utopia forgotten and in ruins, their brothers and sisters caught in an unshakeable slumber...and the human race gone, having vanished centuries ago in the Transition, a passage to a higher plane of existence.

The Negation's greatest invasion nears Atlantis with only a handful of defenders standing in their way. If Tug cannot awaken the remaining Atlanteans from their stasis cribs then this is the end of Earth's oldest civilization.

CAPRICIA
Shapeshifter and empath

DANIK
Keeper of the secrets

TUG
Telekinetic strongman

ZEPHYRE
Hypermetabolic intellectual

GALVAN
Manipulator of the electromagnetic spectrum

VERITYN
Seer of all truths

Crux® Vol. 1, Issue 26. AUGUST 2003. FIRST PRINTING. Published by CrossGen Comics, LLC. Office of publication: 4413 Tampa Road, Suite 2000, Oldsmar, Florida 34677. Crux®, CrossGen®, CrossGen Comics®, CrossGeneration®, and the CrossGen sigil® are registered trademarks of CrossGen Intellectual Property, LLC. All prominent Crux® characters and images are Trademark and Copyright 2003 CrossGen Intellectual Property, LLC. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. The stories, incidents and characters in this publication are fictional. Any similarities to persons living or dead are purely coincidental. With the exception of artwork used for review purposes, none of the contents of this book may be reproduced in any form without the express written consent of CrossGen Comics, LLC. PRINTED IN CANADA.

"WHAT CAN YOU SEE, VERI?"
"AN ARMY, ZEPHYRE THOUSANDS HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS"

"THEY'RE A KIND OF *NEGATION* CREATURE WE'VE NEVER SEEN BEFORE

"THEY ARE *AMPHIBIOUS* LIKE FROGS OR NEWTS

"THAT'S *WHY* WE DON'T SEE THEM BEFORE

"THEY'RE FROM A PORTAL OPENED *UNDER* THE OCEAN"

THAT'S WHAT I SEE, ZEPHYRE

AND I WISH I DIDN'T

AND THERE'S ONLY SIX OF US TO STOP THEM, VERITYN
STALL THEM, YOU MEAN. TUG ASKED US TO BUY HIM SOME TIME
AN ARMY OF NEWTS ON A RAMPAGE.
AN ORDER OF LOWER BEINGS.
NO MATTER THEIR NUMBER IT SHOULD BE NO TASK FOR HIGHBORN ATLANTEANS TO SLOW THEIR PROGRESS.
WELL, DON'T LOOK NOW, BE-PHIR--
BUT ONE OF YOUR HIGHBORN COUSINS IS HEADING FOR COVER
AMATUS!
DIE! WE WILL ALL DIE!

Oh, BITTER IRONY!
TO BE AWAKENED FROM EONS-LONG SLEEP ONLY TO DIE!
Uh?
WHAT SWIFT DEATH IS THIS?
NO DEATH, AMATUS, BUT SERIOUS BRUISING IF YOU DON'T STEP BACK IN LINE
EVERYONE STANDS AND FIGHTS, EVEN A WEASEL LIKE YOU
"TUG AND GALVAN NEED ALL OF THE TIME WE CAN GIVE THEM."
THOSE IDIOTS!
WHAT DID THEY DO, TUG?

THEY JUST DESTROYED ALL OF OUR WORK, GALVAN
ARISTOPHANES AND H.S FRIENDS WRECKED THE ENERGY INTERFACE WE BUILT TO POWER UP THE STASIS CRIBS
YOUR FORMER PAL WANTED TO MAKE SURE ONLY CERTAIN ATLANTEANS WERE REVIVED
I HAD NO IDEA...
YOU HAD A BIG BLIND SPOT FOR ARISTOPHANES, GALVAN
AND THANKS TO HIM WE HAVE TO START ALL OVER IF WE'RE GOING TO GET HELP FROM THE ATLANTEANS STILL SLEEPING
ARISTOPHANES MAY JUST HAVE DOOMED ATLANTIS!
HURRY, YOU FOOLS!
EVEN I CANNOT HOLD THIS HUMAN ASSAULT MUCH LONGER!
RHEZUS!

RHEZUS!
ARISTOPHANES WISHES YOUR ATTENTION, RHEZUS
I HAVE NONE TO SPARE, PAXTAN!
IF I AM TO SAVE OUR LIVES AND OUR HOMELAND THEN I HAVE BUT SECONDS
LEAVE HIS LORDSHIP ARISTOPHANES TO FUME!
I HAVE ENOUGH TO TROUBLE ME WITH THIS DAMNABLE HUMAN WEAPON!
PERHAPS YOU MIGHT AID HIS WORSHIP IN THE FIGHT RATHER THAN BANGING AT MY EARS!
WELL

YOU CAN FIGHT, PAXTAN

SWALLOW YOUR FEAR AND TURN YOUR MIND TO A WEAPON

MY MIND

A WEAPON

"A WEAPON TO ROOT INTO THEIR *THOUGHTS*

"TO THEIR MOST *BRUTAL* ANIMAL BRAINS

WHAT IS *THIS?*

"AND TURN THEIR BLIND *RAGE* UPON THEMSELVES."

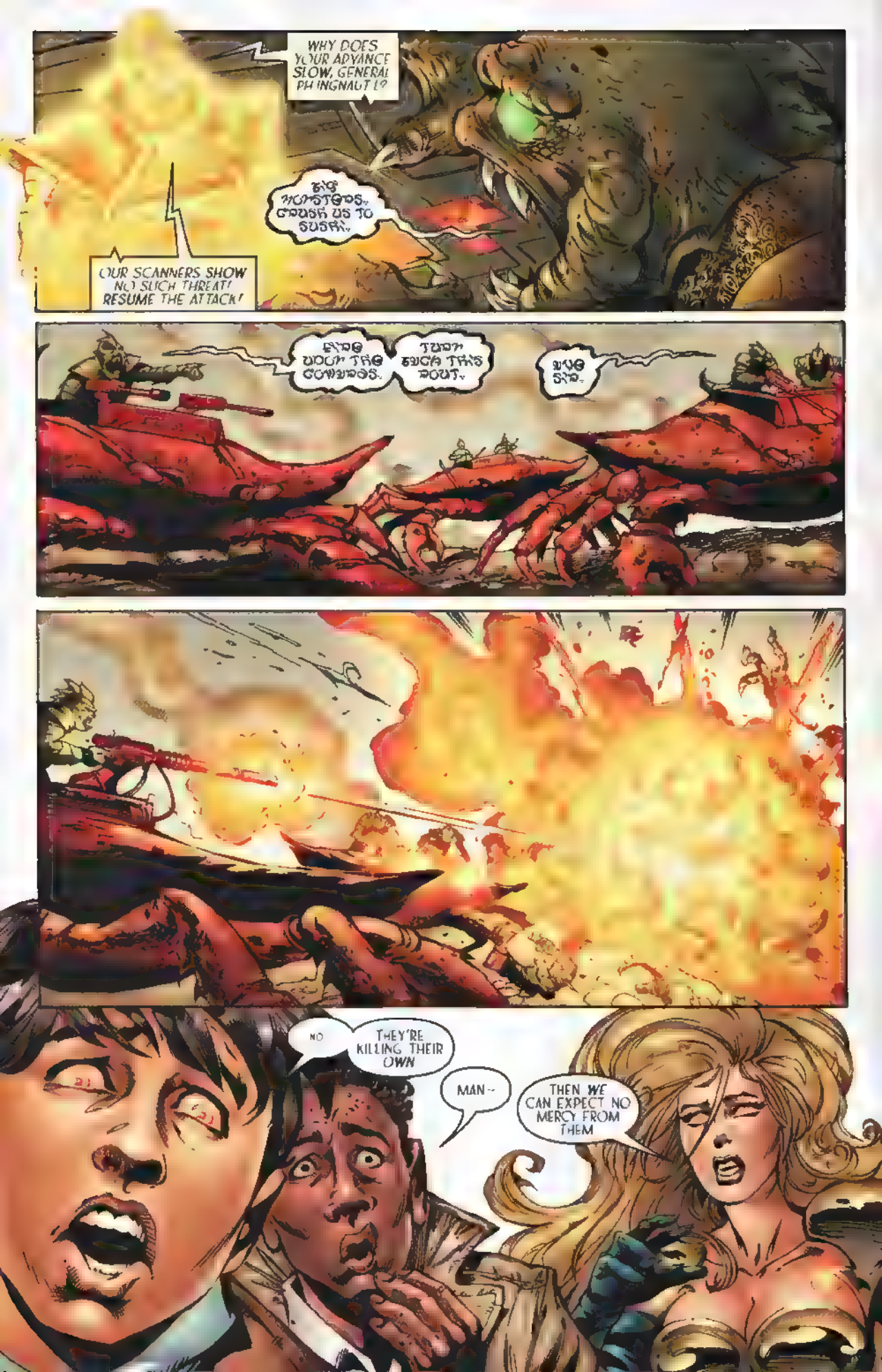
...RDS OF ...AGEDAR

"WHAT HORROR IS THIS?"
COWARD TRAITOR
LAY OFF, BELPHIR
IT IS HOPELESS, WHAT MIGHT I DO TO STEM SUCH A HORDE?
YOU MASTERED THE ART OF ILLUSION, AMATUS
CAPRICIA HAS TOLD ME YOU WERE LEGENDARY FOR YOUR POWERS
I WAS?
MAKE UP AN ILLUSION THAT'LL SLOW DOWN THE NEWTS
I WAS
NICE
WHAT?
I DON'T SEE ANYTHING
IT'S NOT WHAT YOU SEE GEROM

STRIKE INTO ENEMY.

GO US! GOOD.

"IT'S WHAT THEY SEE."


WHY DOES YOUR ADVANCE SLOW, GENERAL PHINGNAUTL?
OUR SCANNERS SHOW NO SUCH THREAT! RESUME THE ATTACK!
NO
THEY'RE KILLING THEIR OWN
MAN--
THEN WE CAN EXPECT NO MERCY FROM THEM

"THEY ONLY WANT US DEAD
PLANET-KILLER AT OPTIMUM POWER
TARGET DESIGNATE ATLANTIS ACQUIRED
AWAITING FINAL AUTHORIZATION
THIS IS YOUR CALL?
THAT'S CORRECT CAPTAIN IT'S A CORPORATE DECISION
THE SHAREHOLDERS OF TERRA COGNITO WILL BE MOST PLEASED WHEN THIS PARTICULAR ASSET IS LIQUIDATED
GUN CREW AUTHORIZATION APPROVED
"DESTROY ATLANTIS"
FIRING SEQUENCE INITIATED

--IN FIVE--

SEQUENCING PROGRAMS TO BLAST!

--FOUR

RHEZUS! SHUT DOWN THE GUN NOW!

-THREE--

MOVE SWIFTLY, WON'T YOU?

STRUTTING PONCE

~TWO~

HOLDING FIRM ON AIMING POINT

~ONE

EARTH S OURS AGAIN

--IN ZERO--

I CANNOT STOP IT

A CHARLATAN TO THE END

I CAN ONLY--

--RE-DIRECT IT!

WHAT *IS* TUG'S IDEA TO SAVE US ALL?

I HAVE *NO* IDEA, BE_PHIR

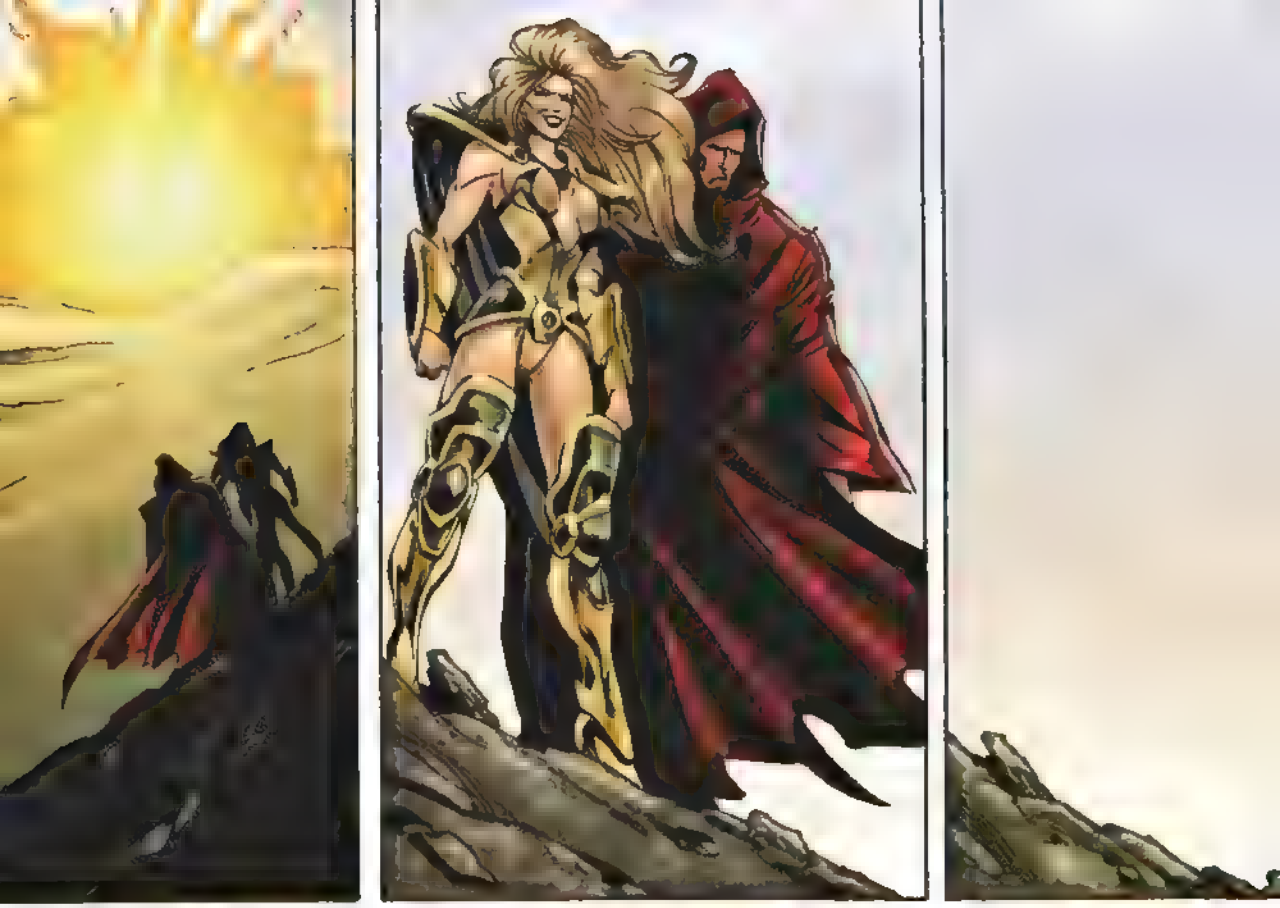
I HOPE IT'S WORTH *DYING* FOR

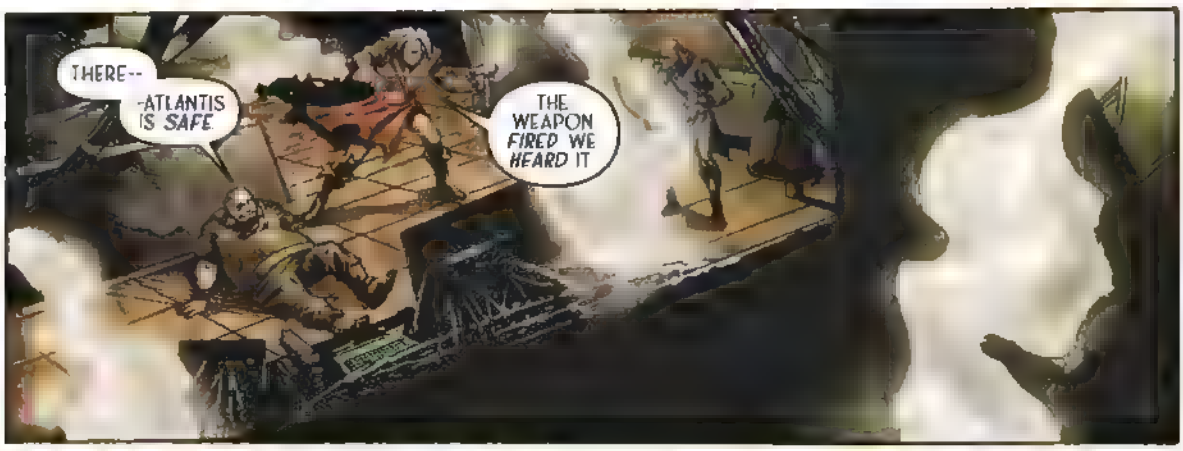
BECAUSE THIS IS LOOKING *GRIM*

VERITYN

I'M NOT *AFRAID*, ZEPHYRE I *STILL* HAVE HOPE LEFT

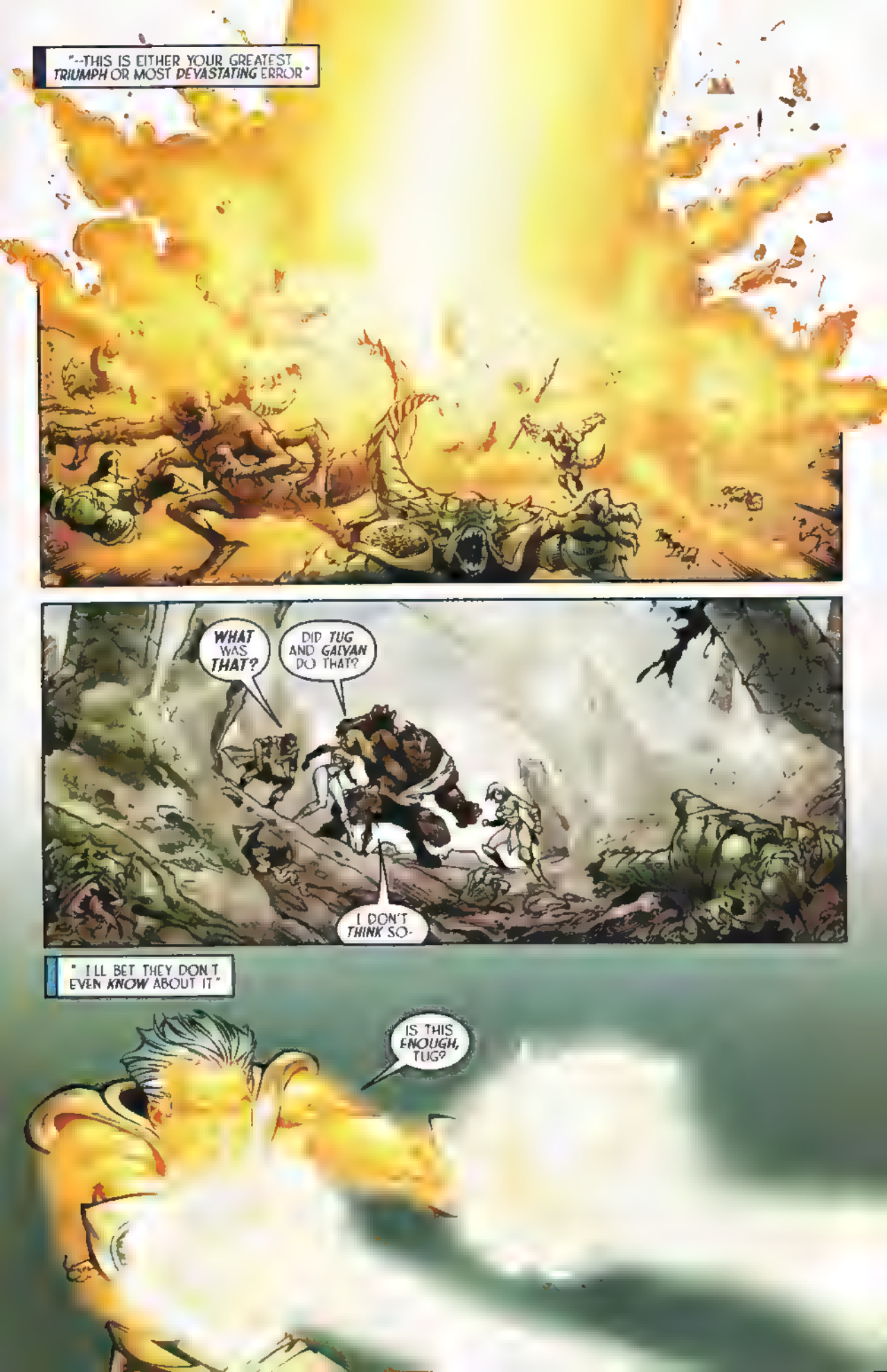
"BUT NOT *MUCH*"




THERE--
-ATLANTIS IS SAFE
THE WEAPON FIRED WE HEARD IT

YES. AND IT STRUCK THE BARREN PLAINS OF TH'OLLAN
NO HARM TO ATLANTIS NO HARM TO ANYONE

YOU HAD BEST BE CORRECT RHEZUS
THE OLD MAN IS RIGHT


"--THIS IS EITHER YOUR GREATEST TRIUMPH OR MOST DEVASTATING ERROR"
WHAT WAS THAT?
DID TUG AND GALVAN DO THAT?
I DON'T THINK SO-
"I'LL BET THEY DON'T EVEN KNOW ABOUT IT"
IS THIS ENOUGH, TUG?

YES, GALVAN!
KEEP THE POWER LEVELS *INSIDE* OF THAT RANGE!
JUST *ENOUGH* TO ACTIVATE THE RE EMERGENCE PROTOCOLS BUT *NOT* ENOUGH TO FRY THESE CONNECTIONS!
DO YOU THINK THIS WILL *WORK*?
I THINK IT ALREADY *HAS*

STORYTELLERS

Chuck DIXON
WRITER

Sergio CARIELLO
PENCILER

Roland PARIS & Rob HUNTER
INKERS

Laura VILLARI
COLORIST

Oscar GONGORA
LETTERER

The CrossGen Universe created by Mark Alessi & Gina M. Villa

COVER INKS BY
Roland Paris

President Chief Executive Officer & Publisher • Mark Alessi
Senior Vice President Chief Creative Officer • Gina M. Villa
Vice President Writing Development • Barbara Kesel
Director Ancillary Publishing • Jon M. Feller
Senior Vice President Chief Financial Officer • [illegible]
Controller • Brian Soltis
Senior Vice President General Counsel • Jennifer Hernandez
Senior Vice President Product Development • Tony Panaccio
Director of Marketing & Communications • Bill Rosemann
Vice President Sales • Chris Oarr
Director of Sales Direct & Foreign Markets • James Breitkeil

Vice President Special Projects • Brandon Peterson
Vice President Art Director • Bart Sears
Assistant Art Directors • Michael Atiyeh, Butch Guice, Dave Lanphear, Rick Magyar, Laura Martin, Mark Pennington, Andy Smith
Freelance Coordinator • Michelle Pugliese
Vice President Production • Pam Davies
Production Supervisor Advertising/Web • Sylvia Bretz
Production Supervisor Books • Janet Bechtle
Production Designers • Erin Flanagan & Randy Martin
Production Assistants • Marisol Quintana & Ron Domingue

CrossGen
29
NOV
CRUX
USA $2.95 CAN $4.25
Chuck Dixon
Sergio Cariello
Rob Hunter
Laura Villari
crossgen.com

They Were The Atlanteans,

a peaceful civilization of artists and philosophers who used their phenomenal mental and physical skills to build an island utopia. They had but one responsibility: to guide and shepherd Earth's newborn race of *homo sapiens* towards a grand and glorious destiny. But when a mysterious cataclysm plunged Atlantis and its people beneath the waves, six – and only six – were awakened by a nameless stranger one thousand centuries later to find their utopia forgotten and in ruins, their brothers and sisters caught in an unshakeable slumber...and the human race gone, having vanished centuries ago in the Transition, a passage to a higher plane of existence.

The Atlanteans have all been awakened in time to thwart the most massive Negation invasion of all. But is this a welcome event or the beginning of more troubles for Tug, Verityn and the others?

CAPRICIA Shapeshifter and empath

DANIK Keeper of the secrets

TUG Telekinetic strongman

ZEPHYRE Hypermetabolic intellectual

GALVAN Manipulator of the electromagnetic spectrum

VERITYN Seer of all truths

Cruz® Vol. 1, Issue 2®, NOVEMBER 2003. FIRST PRINTING. Published by CrossGen Comics, LLC. Office of publication: 4023 Tampa Road, Suite 2400, Oldsmar, Florida 34677. Cruz®, CrossGen®, CrossGen Comics®, CrossGeneration®, and the CrossGen sigil® are registered trademarks of CrossGen Intellectual Property, LLC. All prominent Cruz® characters and images are Trademark and Copyright 2003 CrossGen Intellectual Property, LLC. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. The stories, incidents and characters in this publication are fictional. Any similarities to persons living or dead are purely coincidental. With the exception of artwork used for review purposes, none of the contents of this publication may be reproduced in any form without the express written consent of CrossGen Comics, LLC. PRINTED IN CANADA.

WHAT'S GOING ON?
I DON'T KNOW, VERITYN
WELL, MY BELIEF IN THE POWER OF PRAYER—

"-IS OFF THE *SCALE* RIGHT NOW"

"THAT'S A PARTICLE BEAM WEAPON AND THOSE FISH FACED NEGATION GOONS ARE IN THE *CROSSHAIRS*"

"*SOMEBODY* UP THERE LIKES US"

"SOMEBODY" IS ARISTOPHANES AND HIS FRIEND, GEROM!
BELPHIR, YOU SAID THEY WENT TO THE TERRA COGNITO SHIP, RIGHT?
YES
"-AND I CAN ONLY WONDER WHAT THEY FOUND THERE"
THE WEAPON FIRED!
WHAT HAVE YOU DONE RHEZUS?
I HAVE SAVED ATLANTIS, YOU FOOLS! I REDIRECTED THEIR DEVICE TO STRIKE AWAY FROM OUR CITY
I HAVE ALSO DISABLED THE POWER FEED SO THAT THE DEVICE WILL--
--EXPLODE!
THE ENERGY CORE TO THE PLANETKILLER IS REDLINING!

IS THIS STATION IN DANGER?
A CORE COLLAPSE IS CRITICAL
WELL, TAKE CARE OF IT! THIS FACILITY IS A MAJOR CAPITAL OUTLAY!
IT'S A FUSION CORE, BENEDICT
IT CANNOT BE REASONED WITH IT CANNOT BE THREATENED IT CANNOT BE RIGHTSIZED
WE ARE DOOMED AND THAT IS THE BOTTOM LINE."
WE ARE SECONDS FROM STRUCTURAL COLLAPSE
YOU'D BEST FOLLOW ME!
IF YOU WISH TO SEE ATLANTIS AGAIN--

YOU ARE *CERTAIN* ATLANTIS IS SPARED?

WHY SHOULD WE *BELIEVE* YOU?

THEN STAY AND *DIE*, PAXTAN!

YOUR *ANNOYING* LACK OF FAITH -

-IS *IRRELEVANT* IF WE DO NOT EXIT THIS STATION

NOW!

"SOMETHING'S GONE VERY VERY WRONG."

"LOOKS LIKE THEY GOT A SECOND *WIND*"

CLUNK
YOU WAKE DEMON THE ATTACH THE ATTACHMENTS MUST DIE

WHATEVER THAT WEAPON **WAS**, IT'S GONE

MAYBE IT DID THE JOB, RIGHT?

IT *STOPPED* THE NEGATION ADVANCE

THEY'VE PROBABLY HAD ENOUGH

OR PROBABLY *NOT*. ZEPHYRE

WHAT DO WE DO?
WHATEVER WE CAN, GEROMI WE HAVE TO HOPE TUG AND GALVAN HAVE HAD THE TIME THEY NEED
"I WISH I KNEW WHAT THEY WERE PLANNING, THOUGH"
TUG?
I KNOW, GALVAN--
-IT LOOKS LIKE IT WORKED OUR FELLOW ATLANTEANS ARE AWAKENED
TUG? IS THAT YOU?
THEOLONA?
WHAT HAS HAPPENED, MY LOVE? WHY IS ATLANTIS IN RUINS?
IT'S A VERY LONG STORY, THEOLONA A HUNDRED THOUSAND YEARS LONG

THE CITY WAS DESTROYED UPON THE TRANSITION OF THE OTHERS
THE DEVICE THAT WAS TO REVIVE US WAS DAMAGED
A THOUSAND CENTURIES WHAT OF OUR MISSION? WHAT OF THE HUMAN RACE?
MUCH HAS CHANGED BUT MY HEART BURSTS AT THE SIGHT OF YOU!
GALVAN, WHERE IS YOUR BROTHER GAMMID?
HE IS GONE, MASTER DIZOR
GONE?
VERITYN? HAS ANYONE SEEN MY SON?
AND MY DAUGHTER ZEPHYRE WHERE IS SHE?
ATLANTIS THREATENED AN ENEMY ATTACKS THE CITY EVEN NOW
OUR ORIGINAL TASK MUST BE PUT ASIDE WE FIGHT FOR OUR OWN SURVIVAL
WHERE IS VERITYN?

WE HAVE TO FIGHT! WE HAVE TO--
Unnhs
NO, VERITYN! STAY DOWN!
THE END IS THE END OF DAYS
"THERE'S NOTHING YOU CAN DO!"
"I CAN'T JUST STAND BY! THRAXIS CAN'T DO IT ALONE!"
"MAYBE NOT."
"...BUT I'M GLAD HE'S ON OUR SIDE!"

NO!
ZEPHYRE, WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
DON'T WORRY, GEROM. THEY CAN'T TOUCH ME!
BUT SOMEONE HAS TO TAKE THAT GUN OUT OF ACTION OR WE'RE ALL DEAD!
TAKE CREOF THRAXIS!
CAN'T TOUCH ME. CAN'T TOUCH ME. CAN'T TOUCH ME!

ALMOST THERE ZEPHALMOST THERE—

ZEPHYRE!
NO
THEY--THEY KILLED HER--
DON'T SAY THAT, BELPHIR DON'T EVER SAY THAT
ZEPHYRE IS ALIVE AND WE'RE GOING TO HER
WHO'S GOING WITH ME?
RIGHT BEHIND YOU, VER!
WE FORM BY ZEPHYRE'S SIDE

"AND NOT ONE STEP *BACKWARD*"
WHERE *ARE* WE, ARISTOPHANES?
ANYWHERE WE COULD BE ANYWHERE ON THE *PLANET*, PAXTAN
AND IT MATTERS *NOT*
THE INVADERS HAVE FALLEN AND EARTH IS NOW UNQUESTIONABLY *OURS*

"AND NONE WILL DARE WREST IT FROM US"
I CAN'T SEE ZEPHYRE THROUGH THIS PACK!
KEEP FIGHTING! WE'LL FIND HER!
THIS IS HOPELESS, VERITYN! THE THREE OF US CANNOT LAST MUCH LONGER
WHAT IF THERE WERE MORE THAN JUST THE THREE OF US?
Huh?
SOME FORCE DRIVES THEM BACK
NOW WE KNOW WHAT TUG AND GALVAN WERE UP TO

" ATLANTIS LIVES AGAIN!"

IMPOSSIBLE!
THIS IS IMPOSSIBLE!
OUR MAIN ATTACK FORCE IS ROUTED, GENERAL
THEY RETREAT TO THE SEA EVEN AS A SUPERIOR FORCE DESTROYS THEM IN DETAIL
SUPERIOR FORCE? A HANDFUL OF ATLANTEANS?
QUITE A BIT MORE THAN A HANDFUL, GENERAL M'RYAN
TOO FAR FROM POPULATED SYSTEMS FOR USE AS A BASE.
ALREADY STRIPPED OF MINERAL WEALTH
THEN THIS EARTH IS OF NO USE TO US
URRGGLE!

STORYTELLERS

Chuck DIXON
WRITER

Sergio CARIELLO
PENCILER

Rob HUNTER
INKER

Laura VILLARI
COLORIST

Oscar GONGORA
LETTERER

The CrossGen Universe created by Mark Alessi & Cima M.Vila

COVER ART BY
Roland Paris

President Chief Executive Officer & Publisher • Mark Alessi
Senior Vice President Chief Creative Officer • Gina M. Villa
Vice President Writing Development • Barbara Kesel
Director Ancillary Publishing • Lan M. Feller
Senior Vice President Chief Financial Officer • Michael A. Beattie
Controller • Brian Saltis
Senior Vice President General Counsel • Jennifer Hernandez
Senior Vice President Product Development • Tony Panaccio
Director of Marketing & Communications • Bill Rosemann
Vice President Sales • Chris Carr
Director of Sales Direct & Foreign Markets • James Breitbeil

Vice President Special Projects • Brandon Peterson
Vice President Art Director • Bart Sears
Assistant Art Directors • Michael Atiyeh, Butch Guice, Dave Lanphear, Nick Magyar, Laura Martin, Mark Pennington, Andy Smith
Freelance Coordinator • Michelle Pugliese
Vice President Production • Pam Davies
Production Supervisor Advertising/Web • Sylvia Brett
Production Supervisor Books • Janet Bechtle
Production Designers • Erin Flanagan & Randy Martin
Production Assistants • Marisol Quintana & Ron Dominguez

CrossGen
30
NOV
CROIX
Chuck Dixon
Sergio Cariello
Rob Hunter
Laura Villari
03011
USA $2.95 CAN $4.25

They Were The Atlanteans,

a peaceful civilization of artists and philosophers who used their phenomenal mental and physical skills to build an island utopia. They had but one responsibility: to guide and shepherd Earth's newborn race of *homo sapiens* towards a grand and glorious destiny. But when a mysterious cataclysm plunged Atlantis and its people beneath the waves, six – and only six – were awakened by a nameless stranger one thousand centuries later to find their utopia forgotten and in ruins, their brothers and sisters caught in an unshakeable slumber... and the human race gone, having vanished centuries ago in the Transition, a passage to a higher plane of existence.

The Negation is defeated, for now. The remaining Atlanteans have been awakened. But it is to an Atlantis they do not remember, a place of ruin and decay and loss. At the same time Aristophanes and his fellow fugitives are threatened by... ninjas?

CAPRICIA — Shapeshifter and Empath

DANIX — Keeper of the Secrets

TOG — Telekinetic Strongman

ZEPHYRE — Hypermetabolic Intellectual

GALVAN — Manipulator of the electromagnetic spectrum

VERITYN — Seer of all truths

Crossed Vol. 1, Issue 36, NOVEMBER 2003. FIRST PRINTING. Published by CrossGen Comics, LLC. Office of publication: 4023 Tampa Road, Suite 2400, Oldsmar, Florida 34677. Crux®, CrossGen®, CrossGen Comics®, CrossGenerations®, and the CrossGen sig#® are registered trademarks of CrossGen Intellectual Property, LLC. All prominent Crux® characters and visages are Trademark and Copyright 2003 CrossGen Intellectual Property, LLC. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. The stories, incidents and characters in this publication are fictional. Any similarities to persons living or dead are purely coincidental. With the exception of artwork used for review purposes, none of the contents of this book may be reproduced in any form without the express written consent of CrossGen Comics, LLC. PRINTED IN CANADA.

ATLANTIS
SURVIVES?
TELL ME HOW THESE FEW BEINGS ROUT THE LARGEST ARMY WE'VE SET AGAINST THEM?
UNFORESEEN CIRCUMSTANCES HAVE ARISEN

WHO ARE ALL OF THOSE BEINGS?
I THOUGHT THERE WERE ONLY SIX OR SEVEN OF THEM
THEY COULD NOT HAVE MULTIPLIED THIS QUICKLY
LONG RANGE GENE SCANS SUGGEST THEY ARE ATLANTEANS

WE THEORIZE THAT THEY MAY HAVE BEEN IN A SORT OF STASIS
THEIR APPEARANCE IS MOST INCONVENIENT
THIS PLANET SHOULD HAVE BEEN OURS BY NOW
YOU INTIMATED THAT PERHAPS THIS WORLD SHOULD BE ELIMINATED RATHER THAN TAKEN BY FORCE
I SPOKE RASHLY
THIS EARTH PLAYS AN IMPORTANT PART IN CHARON'S GRAND PLAN
WHAT PART OF THE GRAND PLAN, GENERAL BHARDZEER?
DO YOU THINK I WOULD SHARE THE UNIVERSAL MASTER'S THOUGHTS WITH YOU?
BESIDES, I DON'T KNOW MYSELF
WHAT TO DO ABOUT ATLANTIS, GENERAL?
NOTHING FOR NOW

"WE WILL *REEXAMINE* OUR PLANETARY SCANS OF EARTH

"THESE *NEW* ATLANTEANS MUST BE THE SOURCE OF THOSE PHANTOM LIFE READINGS WE WERE REGISTERING

"IF A MERE *SIX* OF THESE BEINGS HELD OUR BEST UNITS AT BAY FOR ALL THIS TIME..."

"-THEN THE APPEARANCE OF MORE THAN A *THOUSAND* OF THEM REQUIRES A NEW STRATEGY

"THIS CAMPAIGN IS *OVER*

"ALL UNITS *WITHDRAW* AND CLOSE PORTALS"

"THE *NEXT* TIME WE RETURN TO ATLANTIS THERE WILL BE NO HALF MEASURES"

MAGNIFICENT ALL OF OUR FELLOW ATLANTEANS AMONG US ONCE MORE
GEROM!
I SEE HER, VERITYN
IS SHE BREATHING, GEROM!?
BARELY
I--I DON'T KNOW HOW SHE'S ALIVE AFTER THE HIT SHE TOOK
IT IS WAR THERE ARE ALWAYS CASUALTIES
SHE'S NOT A CASUALTY, BELPHIR!
SHE'S ZEPHYRE! SHE'S OUR FRIEND!
YOU HAVE TO LEARN THAT~
OH NO I FORGOT

THRAXIS!

HE'S LOST A LOT OF BLOOD ZEPHYRE IS-- IS
WHAT DO WE DO NOW, GEROMI?
I DON'T KNOW. VERI EVEN IF I WAS A DOCTOR

ZEPHYRE'S AN ATLANTEAN YOU'RE DIFFERENT
BUT WE CAN'T JUST LET HER DIE

VERITYN!
GEROMI!

WHAT'S HAPPENED?
WE HELD OFF THOSE FISH HEADS TO BUY YOU GUYS TIME, TUG
LOOKS LIKE IT WORKED
ZEPHYRE?

IT'S BAD, GALVAN ONE OF YOU NEW FOLKS MUST BE A DOCTOR, RIGHT?
WE HAVE HEALERS
ZEPHYRE HOW DID IT HAPPEN?

VERI--
MOTHER--

Oh!
THAT'S THRAXIS HE'S FROM ANOTHER PLANET
WHAT IS HE VERITYN?
HE'S MY FRIEND

SHE ATTACKED THE NEGATION NEWTS ALL BY HERSELF
WE WILL TAKE HER TO THE CITY AND TREAT HER WOUNDS
YOU HAVE TO HELP HER! SHE SAVED OUR LIVES
YOU ARE NOT ATLANTEAN

I'M HUMAN DOES THAT MATTER NOW?
WE'RE ALL EARTHLINGS, RIGHT?
I SHOULD HAVE BEEN HERE

I NEEDED YOUR HELP WITH THE STASIS CRIBS, GALVAN. YOU DID YOUR PART HELPING ME
ZEPHYRE'S A TOUGH ONE. SHE'LL MAKE IT

HOW MANY OTHER HUMANS ARE THERE HERE?
JUST GEROMI. THE PLANET IS DESERTED, UDATES
NO OTHERS?
NONE EXCEPT THE ONES THAT ARISTOPHANES AND HIS BUNCH KILLED

KILLED?
THIS ARISTOPHANES YOU MENTION--

"--HE CANNOT BE THE ATLANTEAN OF LEGEND"
ARE YOU CERTAIN IT'S SAFE ARISTOPHANES?

WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO ATLANTEANS THAT THEY KNOW SUCH FEAR?
WE'VE BEEN ASLEEP FOR MILLENNIA HOW CAN WE KNOW WHAT THIS WORLD IS LIKE?
IT IS MOSTLY UNPOPULATED, RHEZUS
A PLACE OF GHOSTS--
YOU CAN STOP FEIGNING INJURY, PAXTAN
Unnh!
A STRUCTURE OF SOME SORT
OBVIOUSLY A FORTRESS WE WILL TAKE SHELTER THERE
FORTRESS?

LEFT TO THEIR OWN, YOUR PRECIOUS HUMANS NEARLY *ANNIHILATED* THEMSELVES

THEY WERE NEVER-- Ow--PRECIOUS TO *ME*

THE SPACE-FARING HUMANS WHO NEARLY *DESTROYED* ATLANTIS SEEMED HEALTHY ENOUGH

APPARENTLY THEY *LEFT* EARTH FOR THE STARS

AND NOW THEY WISH TO *RETURN*

WHY *ABANDON* THEIR HOME?

MORE IMPORTANTLY WHY DO THEY SEEK TO RECLAIM IT *NOW*?

Um--DOES ANYONE *ELSE* SENSE--

--THAT WE ARE NOT *ALONE*?

"DISMAYING *MOST* DISMAYING"

ATLANTIS IN *RUINS*. THE HUMAN RACE *GONE*

THE CITY WAS DESTROYED WHEN THE REST OF OUR CITIZENS WENT THROUGH *TRANSITION*, UDATES

AND THE HUMANS WE *DID* FIND WENT THROUGH A *FLAWED* TRANSITION

INSTEAD OF A HIGHER PLANE OF *EVOLUTION* THEY WERE CARRIED TO THE UNIVERSE CALLED THE *NEGATION*

IN *SIMPLER* TERMS, YOU *FAILED*, TUG

WHAT?

YOU FAILED TO *AWAKEN* US EARLIER

YOU ALLOWED THE HUMANS IN YOUR CARE TO *DOOM* THEMSELVES

AND LET THIS ARISTOPHANES *MURDER* HUMANS WHO CAME TO EARTH

ALL OF THOSE THINGS ARE *TRUE* BUT EVENTS WERE *BEYOND* OUR CONTROL

WE WERE ALL MEANT TO BE REAWAKENED *THOUSANDS* OF YEARS AGO

THEOLONA IS *RIGHT* IT WAS AN *ACCIDENT*, UDATES

AND HOW MUCH OF THIS INFORMATION WAS TOLD TO YOU BY *DANIK*?

THE ORDER MUST *CHANGE* IN ATLANTIS. WHAT I SEE *DISTURBS* ME

WHAT DOES UDATES *MEAN*, TUG?

HOW MUST THE ORDER CHANGE?

FOR SO LONG I LOOKED *FORWARD* TO THIS DAY -ATLANTIS REVIVED ATLANTIS *REUNITED*

BUT IT'S DIFFERENT NOW NOTHING IS WHAT WE EXPECTED

"WE FOUND THE WORLD A *SAVAGE* PLACE, NOT AT ALL THE PLACE OF *PROMISE* WE LEFT THE HUMANS"

"WE ALSO FOUND *FRIENDS* A *WARRIOR*"

"AND A GUIDE WHO *HELPED* US IN OUR BATTLE WITH THE NEGATION

"WITHOUT THEM WE WOULD HAVE LOST *EVERYTHING*"

YOU HAVE AWAKENED TO A *DIFFERENT* ATLANTIS, MY LOVE

AND I FEAR IT IS *WORSE* THAN THE HORRORS I'VE FACED SINCE LEAVING STASIS

WE *WERE* ATTACKED BY A THREAT FROM *OUTSIDE* -

"--NOW WE FACE OURSELVES"
MINISTER UDATES?
BELPHIR, IS IT NOT?
I SHARE YOUR CONCERNS FOR THE FUTURE OF ATLANTIS
WE ARE ALL TROUBLED
YOU KNOW THAT I AM A MASTER GENETICIST I THINK THAT OUR MISSION--AND OUR ENTIRE ESSENCE--HAS BEEN CORRUPTED
TO SAVE ATLANTIS IT FIRST MUST BE CLEANSED

STORYTELLERS

Chuck DIXON
WRITER

Sergio CARIELLO
PENCILER

Rob HUNTER
INKER

Laura VILLARI
COLORIST

Oscar GONGORA
LETTERER

The CrossGen Universe created by Mark Alessi & Gina M. Vitale

President, Chief Executive Officer & Publisher • Mark Alessi
Senior Vice President, Chief Creative Officer • Gina M. Vitale
Vice President, Writing Development • Barbara Kesel
Director, Ancillary Publishing • Ian M. Fuller
Senior Vice President, Chief Financial Officer • Michael A. Beattie
Controller • Brian Soltis
Senior Vice President, General Counsel • Jennifer Hernandez
Senior Vice President, Product Development • Tony Panaccio
Director of Marketing & Communications • Bill Rosemann
Vice President, Sales • Chris Oarr
Director of Sales, Direct & Foreign Markets • James Breitbeil

Vice President, Art Director • Bart Sears
Assistant Art Directors • Michael Atiyeh, Dave Lanphear, Rick Magyar, Laura Martin, Mark Pennington, Andy Smith
Freelance Coordinator • Michelle Pugliese
Vice President, Production • Pam Davies
Production Supervisor, Advertising/Web • Sylvia Brea
Production Supervisor, Books • Janet Bechtle
Production Designers • Erin Flanagan & Randy Martin
Production Assistants • Marisol Quintana & Ron Domingue

CrossGen
31
DEC
CRUX
Chuck Dixon
Paul Ryan
Brad Vancata
Hi-Fi Design
03111
8 00155 98135 9
USA $2.95
crossgen.com

They Were The Atlanteans,

a peaceful civilization of artists and philosophers who used their phenomenal mental and physical skills to build an island utopia. They had but one responsibility: to guide and shepherd Earth's newborn race of *homo sapiens* towards a grand and glorious destiny. But when a mysterious cataclysm plunged Atlantis and its people beneath the waves, six – and only six – were awakened by a nameless stranger one thousand centuries later to find their utopia forgotten and in ruins, their brothers and sisters caught in an unshakeable slumber...and the human race gone, having vanished centuries ago in the Transition, a passage to a higher plane of existence.

Ominous tidings throw shadows of doubt and division over Atlantis as some of the newly-awakened seek to rectify what they see as mistakes made by Capricia and the others. And Aristophanes and his new friends encounter... ninjas?

CAPRICIA — Shapeshifter and empath

BANIX — Keeper of the secrets

TUG — Telekinetic strongman

ZEPHYRE — Hypermetabolic intellectual

GALVAN — Manipulator of the electromagnetic spectrum

VERITYN — Seer of all truths

Crux® Vol. 1, Issue 31. DECEMBER 2003. FIRST PRINTING. Published by CrossGen Comics, LLC. Office of publication: 9023 Tampa Road, Suite 2490, Oldsmar, Florida 34677. Crux®, CrossGen®, CrossGen Comics®, CrossGeneration®, and the CrossGen sigil® are registered trademarks of CrossGen Intellectual Property, LLC. All prominent Crux® characters and images are Trademark and Copyright 2003 CrossGen Intellectual Property, LLC. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. The stories, incidents and characters in this publication are fictional. Any similarities to persons living or dead are purely coincidental. With the exception of artwork used for review purposes, none of the contents of this book may be reproduced in any form without the express written consent of CrossGen Comics, LLC. PRINTED IN CANADA.

PAXTAN, USE YOUR MIND FORCE ON THEM. MAKE THEM TURN AGAINST ONE ANOTHER.
I CANNOT! IT DOESN'T WORK ON THESE HUMANS!
THERE IS NOTHING FOR IT THEN--

--I WILL GET MY HANDS *BLOODY* ONCE MORE.

THERE ARE TOO MANY EVEN FOR *ARISTOPHANES*. ARE THEY *SHIELDING* THEIR THOUGHTS?

NO, RHEZUS THEY *HAVE* NO THOUGHTS!

THEY HAVE NO *MINDS*!

WHAT A *HORROR* EARTH HAS BECOME.

LORDS OF HALGADAE--
--I THOUGHT THIS WORLD HAD EVOLVED PAST THE SWORD AND SPEAR.
FINALLY I FIND HUMANS WILLING--
--TO FACE ME OVER THE LENGTH OF A BLADE!

DO YOU HEAR THAT MADMAN?
HE'S ENJOYING HIMSELF!
I HAVE THE GRIM REALIZATION--

"THAT WE MAY NOT LIVE TO SEE ATLANTIS AGAIN."
ARE WE--
HOME, CAPRICIA.
HOW CAN THAT BE, DANIK?

ATLANTIS IS *POPULATED*. IS THIS SOME CRUEL *ILLUSION*?

THIS IS *REALITY*, CAPRICA. OUR FELLOW CITIZENS ARE *AWAKENED*.

ATLANTIS IS REBORN IN A NEW YEAR WITH A NEW MISSION.

A MISSION THAT *YOU* WILL PLAY A PART IN; AND YOUR CHILD AN EVEN *GREATER* PART.

WE DECEIVED SAMANDAHL REY INTO FATHERING THIS CHILD. YOU POSED AS HIS FRIEND JeMERIK.
CAPRICIA, I HAVE TRIED TO IMPRESS UPON YOU--
IT'S NOT THAT, DANIK.
HOW MANY ASPECTS OF YOU ARE THERE? OR HOW MANY WORLDS?
I DO NOT WISH TO BURDEN YOU, CAPRICIA.
I DIDN'T WANT TO KNOW BEFORE. NOW I CAN'T HELP WONDERING.
SUFFICE IT TO SAY THAT I HAVE MANY NAMES; MANY FACES.
ALONE FOR ALL OF THESE CENTURIES' KNOWING WHAT YOU KNOW. KNOWING WHAT'S TO COME.
NOT ALONE, CAPRICIA.
CAPRICIA!
JALEETA?
I KNEW YOU'D COME BACK!
OH, CAPRICIA.
I WAS SO SCARED WHEN I COULDN'T FIND YOU.
I'M HERE, JALEETA. I'LL ALWAYS BE HERE.

IS CAPRICIA--UM--
SHE IS WITH CHILD, VERITYN.
SO, WHAT'S NEXT?
WE WAIT.
THAT'S IT? WE WAIT?
YOU AND I BOTH KNOW THAT TIME IS THE MASTER WE HAVE NO CONTROL OVER.
ATLANTIS MUST PREPARE FOR WHAT IS NEXT. OUR ROLE IS KEY TO VICTORY OVER THE FORCES OPPOSED TO US.
I'VE BEEN DREAMING OF SEEING THE ATLANTEANS AWAKENED; MY MOTHER AND EVERYONE ELSE.
BUT THERE'S STUFF GOING ON-- STUFF I DON'T LIKE.
ALL CHANGE IS PROFOUND, VERITYN.
IF YOU WERE GOING FOR CRYPTIC, YOU MISSED--

"--'CAUSE THAT JUST SOUNDED STUPID."
WHAT YOU TELL ME IS VERY TROUBLING, BELPHIR.
I TRULY DESPISE HAVING TO BRING YOU SUCH NEWS SO SOON AFTER YOUR AWAKENING, MINISTER JDATES.
BUT THE FUTURE OF ATLANTIS IS AT STAKE. TUG, ZEPHYRE AND THE OTHERS HAVE ENDANGERED US ALL.
THEY NEARLY LET INVADERS DESTROY US WHILE WE SLEPT.
THEY'VE POLLUTED OUR CITY WITH ALIEN TECHNOLOGY THEY DON'T EVEN FULLY UNDERSTAND.
I AM AWARE OF THE DISASTROUS EVENTS OF THE RECENT PAST, BELPHIR. BUT I APPRECIATE YOU COMING TO ME.
IT SAVES ME THE BOTHER OF HUNTING YOU DOWN.
EPOPHUS, IF YOU PLEASE--
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING, MISTER?

--THANK YOU, EPOPHUS.
I HAVE BEEN INFORMED OF YOUR WILLING COMPLICITY IN THE MURDER OF HUMAN BEINGS.
TH-THEY WERE ATTACKING US!

YOU WILL HAVE EVERY OPPORTUNITY TO PROVE YOUR INNOCENCE.
BUT FOR NOW THE VERY SIGHT OF YOU SICKENS ME.
MINISTER UDATES!
NO!

NO NEED TO GAZE UPON HER FURTHER.
UH?
OH!

I'LL PLACE HER WITH THE OTHERS.

SO MUCH WORK AHEAD OF US. I DON'T LIKE THIS ENTIRE ARISTOPHANES AFFAIR.
HOW COULD HE BE THE LEGENDARY HERO OF ATLANTIS?
TRUE OR NOT HE LED ATLANTEANS TO BREAK THEIR COVENANT TOWARD HUMANS.
AND THIS BEAST MAN FROM THE STARS.
THE ONE CALLED THRAXIS.
IT MUST BE FOUND ALSO. WE WILL NEED MORE ATLANTEANS LOYAL TO US TO PERFORM THESE TASKS.
I HAVE TAKEN THE LIBERTY OF RECRUITING A FEW OLD FRIENDS.
I HOPE YOU TREAT THEM NICER THAN YOU DID BELPHIR
THE ARCHITECT. IT IS TUS, IS IT NOT?

WHAT'S ALL THIS ABOUT *LOYALTY*, JDATES?
THERE HAVE BEEN *CRIMES* COMMITTED, TUG.
YEAH. YOU'VE *ALREADY* LISTED MY SHORT-COMINGS.
I SPEAK OF GRAVER SUBJECTS THAN MERE INCOMPE*TENCE.
THERE ARE THOSE WHO HAVE *UNDERMINED* EVERY TENET THAT GIVES OUR SOCIETY PURPOSE.
AS WE LOOK TO THE FUTURE WE MUST *ALSO* DO WHAT WE CAN TO HONOR OUR PAST.
ATLANTIS MUST REMAIN *TRUE* TO ITS ORIGINS.
SURE.
BUT THIS ISN'T THE FUTURE *ANY* OF US EXPECTED TO WAKE UP TO.

"AND THE SOONER WE ALL REALIZE THAT, THE BETTER OFF WE'LL BE."
THIS THE PLACE, RHOMUS?
EPOPHUS SAID HE GOT A VIBE FROM DOWN HERE.
THIS COULD BE IT, RHOMUS.
WHAT'S THIS ONE'S POWER?
SOME KIND OF MENTAL PROJECTION
SOUNDS--
-HARMLESS ENOUGH.
HUH?
AMATUS?
ANYONE HOME?

WELCOME, MY YOUNG FRIENDS, TO THE HOME OF AMATUS. WHAT BRINGS YOU TO MY DOOR?
WE'RE DETAINING YOU FOR THE CRIME OF HUMAN MURDER.
COME QUIET AND--
NEVER!
BE GONE FROM MY PRESENCE OR SUFFER!
I GOT THIS ONE, RHOM.
UNNH!

HOW DID YOU--
I HAD HIM AS AN INSTRUCTOR IN SCHOOL.
LET'S GET HIM IN A CEL... JDATES HAS OTHER ATLANTEANS HE WANTS TO OBSERVE.
"AND THEY MIGHT NOT BE THIS EASY TO BRING DOWN."
WHAT SORT OF WARRIORS ARE THESE?
THEIR ATTACK WAS MORE AKIN TO SUICIDE.
ARISTOPHANES, YOU RE THE ONLY PERSON I'VE KNOWN WHO'D COMPLAIN ABOUT SURVIVING A FIGHT.
GAME OVER!
MORE MADNESS.
MORE HORRORS! O, WHERE IS MY WORLD OF TRANQUILITY?
LET GO OF MY ARM, YOU NINNY.

YOU HAVE PLAYED *MOST* EXCELLENTLY.

THE HIGHEST SCORE IN *ALL* THE SHOGUNATE.

A SCORE I WILL *IMPROVE*--

--BY *ONE!*

PLEASE REPORT TO THE-SKAAAK-HOSPITALITY DOJO FOR--

--YOUR--SKIIK-SPECIAL PRIZE-

A *MACHINE?*

THEY ARE *ALL* MACHINES.

HOW FACILE HAD THE HUMAN RACE BECOME THAT IT NEEDED SUCH AMUSEMENTS?
SOPHISTICATED LEVEL OF TECHNOLOGY THOUGH
OOOOOH--
PAXTAN, YOUR BLOOD IS TOO THIN BY HALF.
BUT YOU'RE MAD IF YOU THINK I'M CARRYING YOU BACK TO ATLANTIS.
THAT WILL NOT BE A PROBLEM, RHEZUS.
UH?
REMEMBER ME, RHEZUS?
WE'LL BE BRINGING YOU THREE BACK TO ATLANTIS TO FACE SOME VERY SERIOUS ACCUSATIONS
I AM GOING NOWHERE WITHOUT--
HONZU--

GUNH!
YOU ALWAYS WERE A SNUG LITTLE SNOT.
WHAT GIVES YOU THE AUTHORITY TO--
JUSTICE. SIMPLE JUSTICE--
--FATHER.
AND NOW RHOMUS WILL SHOW YOU HIS SPECIAL TALENT.

"I'M TOLD IT'S RELATIVELY PAINLESS."
ZEPHYRE--
--IS SHE ALIVE?
BARELY, CAPRICA.
IF ONLY I WERE HERE THIS--
--WOULD HAVE HAPPENED TO YOU.
AN EXCHANGE I'D GLADLY MAKE, GEROMI.
HOW DID ZEPHYRE GET INJURED?
IT HAPPENED. WE CAN'T FILL YOU IN ON RECENT EVENTS EVERY TIME YOU DISAPPEAR.
YOU WEREN'T THERE FOR GAMMID! YOU WEREN'T THERE FOR ZEPHYRE!
I HAD TO GO, GALVAN. IT WAS IMPORTANT.
MORE IMPORTANT THAN US?

I CAN'T EXPLAIN. NOT NOW.
MORE SECRETS BETWEEN YOU AND DANIK.
I CAN'T TELL YOU BUT MAYBE--
--DANIK CAN?
GALVAN. AND THE HUMAN. MOST CONVENIENT.
YOU ARE BOTH WANTED BY MINISTER UDATES.
THE MINISTER HOLDS NO RANK OVER US.
THESE ARE NEW DAYS, CAPRICIA. STAND ASIDE OR BE TAKEN WITH THEM.
STAND ASIDE?

DO I LOOK LIKE I'M STANDING ASIDE, EPOPHUS?
FINALLY, SOMEONE IN MY LEAGUE WANTS A FIGHT.

STORYTELLERS
Chuck DIXON WRITER
Paul RYAN Guest PENCILER
Brad VANCATA Guest INKER
Hi-Fi DESIGNS Guest COLORIST
Oscar GONGORA LETTERER
The Crossfire Universe
Mark Alessi &
Lina M. Villa
COVER COLORS BY
Laura Villari
Chief Executive Officer · Mark Alessi
President of Sales · Chris Oarr
Director of Sales, Book Trade · Robert Boyd
Director of Sales, Foreign & Direct Market
President of Education · Beth Widers
Director of Creative Development · Barbara Kesel
Senior Vice President, Legal Counsel · Jennifer Hernandez
Senior Vice President, Chief Financial Officer · Brut Sears
Vice President of Information Technology · Courtland Wilson
Network Administrator · Michael Crandall
Web Master · Marshall Jessee
Senior Vice President of Publishing · Bill Rosemann
Managing Editor · Jon M. Feller
Director of Scheduling · Charlie Ducher
Director · Rick Magyar, Mark Pennington
Laura Martin, Dave Lanphear
Creative Services · Pam Davies
Manager of Book Production · Janet Bechtle
Manager of Advertising Production · Sylvia Bea
Randy Martin &

32
DEC
CRUX
Chuck Dixon
Sergio Carielle
Rob Hunter
Laura Villari
03211
8 00155 98135 9
USA $2.95
crossgen.com

They Were The Atlanteans,

a peaceful civilization of artists and philosophers who used their phenomenal mental and physical skills to build an island utopia. They had but one responsibility: to guide and shepherd Earth's newborn race of *homo sapiens* towards a grand and glorious destiny. But when a mysterious cataclysm plunged Atlantis and its people beneath the waves, six – and only six – were awakened by a nameless stranger one thousand centuries later to find their utopia forgotten and in ruins, their brothers and sisters caught in an unshakeable slumber...and the human race gone, having vanished centuries ago in the Transition, a passage to a higher plane of existence.

It's a new order in Atlantis as Udates and his followers begin to hunt down and imprison those who do not represent the highest ideals of the ancient civilization. But Capricia and Galvan stand against him.

CAPRICIA — Shapeshifter and empath

DANIK — Keeper of the secrets

TUG — Telekinetic strongman

ZEPHYRE — Hypermetabolic intellectual

GALVAN — Manipulator of the electromagnetic spectrum

VERITYN — Seer of truths

Cruz® Vol. 1, Issue 12, DECEMBER 2003. FIRST PRINTING. Published by CrossGen Comics, LLC. Office of publication: 4023 Tampa Road, Suite 2400, Oldsmar, Florida 34677. Cruz®, CrossGen®, CrossGen Comics®, CrossGeneration®, and the CrossGen sigil® are registered trademarks of CrossGen Intellectual Property, LLC. All prominent Cruz® characters and images are Trademark and Copyright 2003 CrossGen Intellectual Property, LLC. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. The stories, incidents and characters in this publication are fictional. Any similarities to persons living or dead are purely coincidental. With the exception of artwork used for review purposes, none of the contents of this book may be reproduced in any form without the express written consent of CrossGen Comics, LLC. PRINTED IN CANADA.

BE...PHIR-

BELPHIR--
DARLING BELPHIR-- LOVELY ASSSS...
LACERTO!

YOU REMEMBER ME, BELPHIR--HOW GRATIFYING.
OF COURSE I RECALL YOU, LACERTO.
I'VE THOUGHT OF YOU OFTEN SINCE AWAKENING.
I WONDER, BELPHIR--
--HOW DID YOU RECA... ME?
ASSSSS I WASSSS WHEN WE FIRSSSST MET?
OR ASSSSS THE MONSSSSTER YOU TURNED ME INTO?

"WHICH FACSSSE OF „ACSSSERTO DID YOU SSSSEE?"

UNNH!

TAKE HIM DOWN, PRICIA! I'VE GOT UDATES UNDER CONTROL.

STAND DOWN, CAPRICIA.

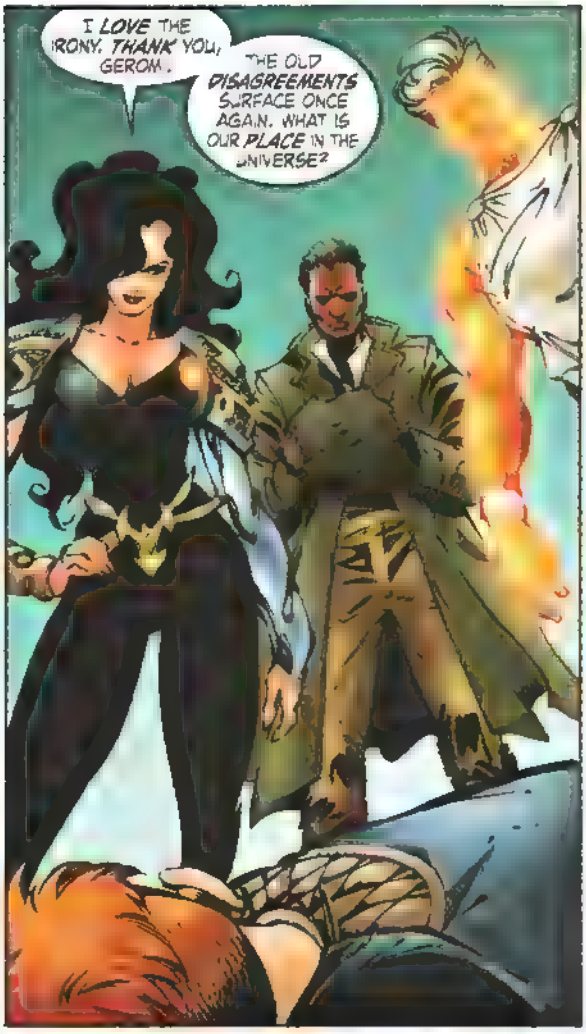
WE ARE NOT YOURS TO COMMAND, EPOPHUS!

GENE TESTING, PROFILING, CATALOGUING.
HOW DARE YOU PRESUME TO RULE ATLANTIS? ATLANTEANS ARE FREE TO DO AS THEY WILL!
IT'S A NEW DAY, CAPRICA.
AND PERHAPS THERE'S NO PLACE FOR YOU IN THIS NEW WORLD
RELEASE ME
NOT IF YOU REFUSE TO LISTEN TO REASON.
REASON? IS THAT WHAT YOU TWO ARE SELLING?
EXCUSE ME, BUT LOCKING UP ATLANTEANS YOU DON'T LIKE SOUNDS UNREASONABLE TO ME.
YOUNG FOOL--
HEY!

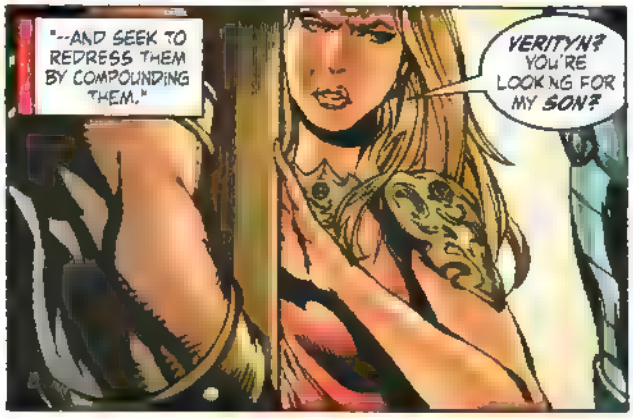
YOU WOULD DICTATE OUR COURSE, GALVAN? YOU WHO ALLOWED AN ENEMY TO INVADE ATLANTIS?
WHO SENT HIS OWN BROTHER TO HIS DOOM?
WHO FAILED IN HIS MISSION?
UDATES IS RIGHT. YOU HAD YOUR CHANCE.
NOW WE'LL CORRECT YOUR MISTAKES.
NO!
YOU'RE MISREADING WHAT YOU'VE SEEN!
YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND!
WHAT'S HAPPENING?
I THINK ALL OF OUR FUTURES ARE BEING DECIDED.

"AND I'M NOT SO SURE WE RE GONNA LIKE THE F NAL SCORE."
UNH!
ARRH!
HNNH!
UDATES!
OH.
I DID NOT WANT TO RESORT TO THIS, CAPRICIA --
--BUT YOU LEAVE ME LITTLE CHOICE BUT TO--

DIDN'T MEAN TO STEP INTO A FAMILY ARGUMENT
EPOPHUS, WOULD-BE SHEPHERD OF THE HUMAN RACE--
--BROUGHT DOWN BY GEROM! WITH A ROCK


I LOVE THE IRONY, THANK YOU, GEROM.
THE OLD DISAGREEMENTS SURFACE ONCE AGAIN. WHAT IS OUR PLACE IN THE UNIVERSE?

THEY WANT TO PLAN OUR DESTINY ALONG THE OLD WAYS; A WAY OF THINKING NOW IRRELEVANT.
IN THEIR IGNORANCE THEY JUDGE US FOR OUR ERRORS--


"--AND SEEK TO REDRESS THEM BY COMPOUNDING THEM."
VERITYN? YOU'RE LOOKING FOR MY SON?

WE NEED TO ASK HIM SOME QUESTIONS, ELNA.
ABOUT THE ALIEN HE'S BEFRIENDED.
HE IS IN HIS ROOM.
VERITYN!
COULD YOU COME OUT HERE?
VERITYN?
VERITYN WHERE ARE YOU?

THRAXIS?
IT'S VERI. I KNOW YOU'RE HERE.
THERE'S SOME TROUBLE COMING, THRAXIS.
SOMETHING I'M NOT SURE EVEN YOU'RE BIG ENOUGH TO HANDLE.

SOME OF THE ATLANTEANS WHO JUST WOKE UP ARE LOOKING FOR YOU.
AND I DON'T THINK THEY MEAN YOU WELL, THRAXIS. YOU HAVE TO RUN AWAY.
YEAH--
IT WOULD BE BETTER TO HIDE--
DON'T GO CRYING "VICTIM" TO ME, LACERTO. YOU WANTED ME TO EXPERIMENT ON YOU.
YOU THINK I WANTED TO BECOME THIS$$$$?
I BELIEVED YOUR LIES$$$$, BELPHOR.

ANIMAL!
GIGGA-- GIH-GIH-GIH--
GAH!
YOU WILL PAY FOR YOUR CRIMESssss AGAINSSST ME, BELPHIR!
YOU ARE MISTAKEN, ACERTO!

"THEY WILL IMPRISON *YOU* AS WELL."

WE AWAKEN TO A WORLD ***FOREIGN*** TO US.

THIS IS ***NOT*** HOW IT WAS TO BE.

FOLLOWING THE TRANSITION OF THE ***OTHERS*** WE WERE TO AWAKEN.

WE WERE TO AID AND ***COUNSEL*** THE HUMAN RACE TO GREATNESS.

OUR TWO RACES WOULD ACHIEVE TRANSITION ***TOGETHER.***

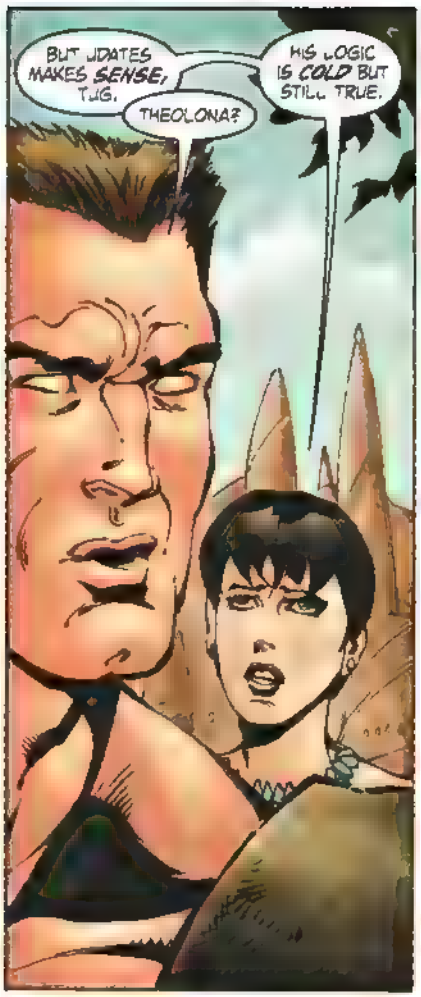
NOW, THE HUMANS ARE ***LOST*** TO US AND OUR WORLD IS A ***RUIN.***

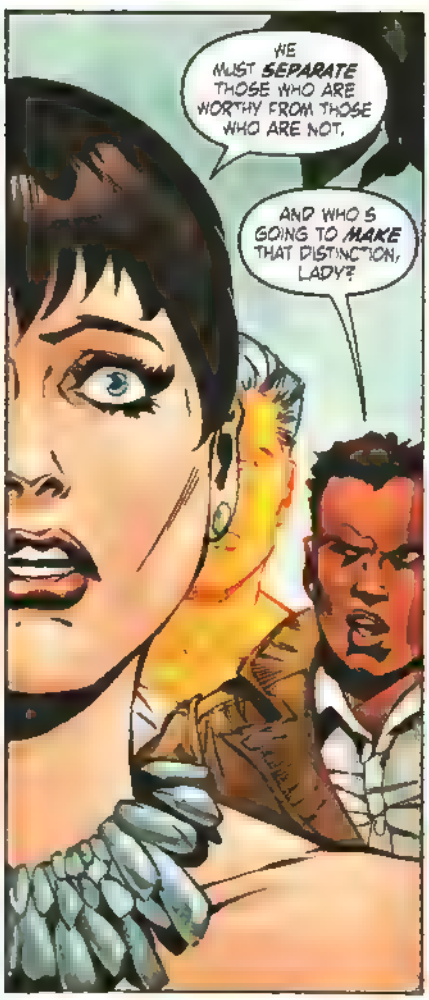
SO, ***YOUR*** ANSWER IS IMPRISONMENT AND OPPRESSION?

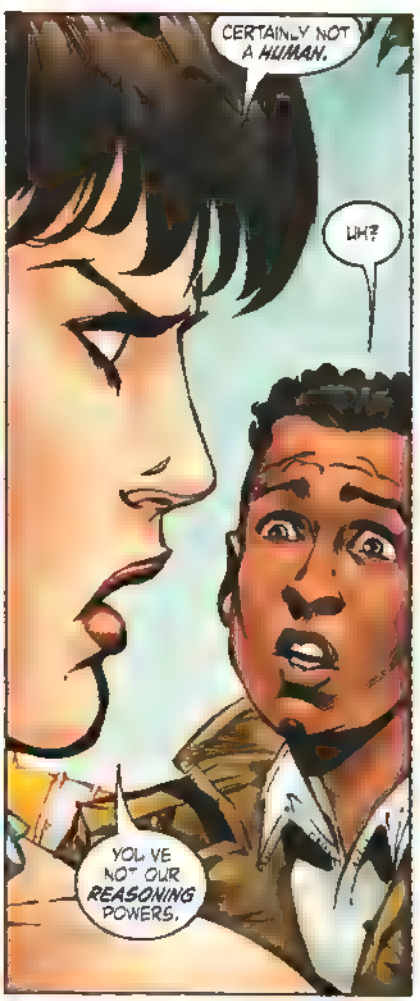
YOU ***DISAPPOINT*** ME, JDATES.

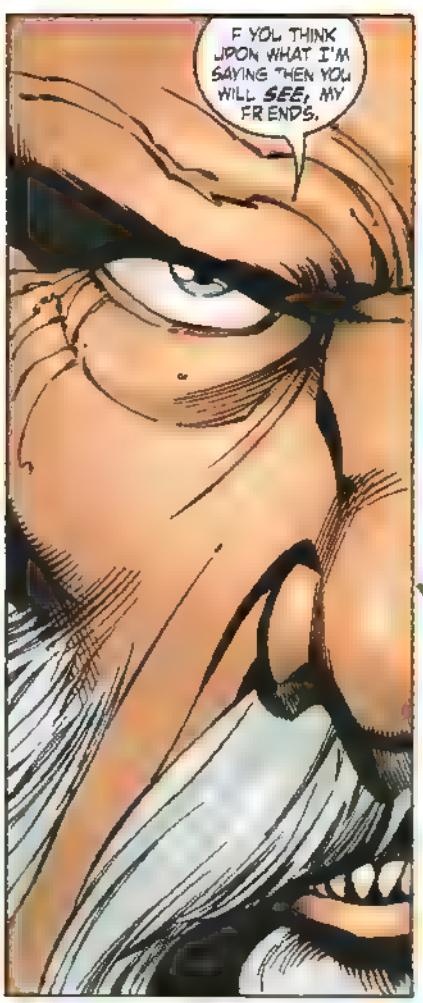
THERE ARE UGLY TRUTHS YOU FAIL TO RECOGNIZE, CAPRICA.
SOME OF WE ATLANTEANS WERE LEFT BEHIND BECAUSE THEY CANNOT ACHIEVE TRANSITION. THEY ARE FLAWED.
WHY ARE YOU SAYING THIS TO ME?

PLEASE, YOU TWO.
THIS ISN'T PRODUCTIVE.


BUT UDATES MAKES SENSE, TUG.
THEOLONA?
HIS LOGIC IS COLD BUT STILL TRUE.

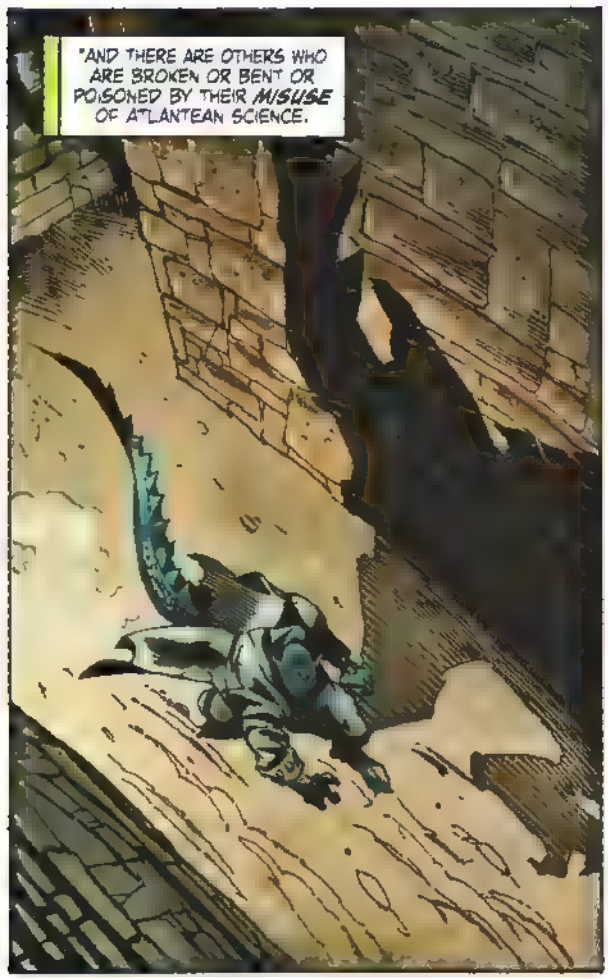

WE MUST SEPARATE THOSE WHO ARE WORTHY FROM THOSE WHO ARE NOT.
AND WHO'S GOING TO MAKE THAT DISTINCTION, LADY?


CERTAINLY NOT A HUMAN.
UH?
YOU'VE NOT OUR REASONING POWERS.


IF YOU THINK UPON WHAT I'M SAYING THEN YOU WILL SEE, MY FRIENDS.

"YOU HAVE FELLOWS OF OURS WHO CONSPIRED TOGETHER TO *MURDER* NUMBERLESS HUMANS.

"THEIR THOUGHTS WERE HOSTILE TO OUR GOALS AND SO THEY WERE LEFT *BEHIND* IN TRANSITION.


"AND THERE ARE OTHERS WHO ARE BROKEN OR BENT OR POISONED BY THEIR *MISUSE* OF ATLANTEAN SCIENCE.

"AND SOME WHO SIMPLY HAVE NO PLACE; THOUGH TRULY ATLANTEAN, THEY ARE MORE *ALIEN* THAN FAMILIAR."

"THEIR FATE MUST BE DECIDED. AND OUR JUDGMENT MAY BE HARSH."
CAN ANYONE HEAR ME?
PLEASE, BE QUIET, PAXTAN.
BUT THIS IS WRONG, RHEZUS
WE ARE ALL ATLANTEANS, ARE WE NOT?
SOME MORE SO THAN OTHERS.
TO BE CAGED!
OUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS ACT LIKE ANIMALS! LIKE SAVAGES!
LIKE HUMANS.
WHAT IS THAT TERRIBLE SOUND?
CALM YOURSELF, PAXTAN--

"--IT'S ONLY ARISTOPHANES LAUGHING."
WHAT EXACTLY *IS* THIS THING WE'RE LOOKING FOR?
IT'S CALLED *THRAXIS*, HONZL. UDATES WANTS IT *CAPTURED*--
--OR *KILLED*.
BUT WHAT IS IT, RHOMUS?
SOME KIND OF *SPACE* CREATURE. *BIG* BRUISER.
THIS IS ITS *SHIP*. TUG USED IT AS A *POWER* SOURCE TO WAKE US ALL UP.
IT'S *HUGE*. THERE MUST BE *MILES* OF CORRIDORS IN HERE.
HUNDREDS OF MILES OF CORRIDORS, ACTUALLY.
VERITYN?

THRAXIS IS MY FRIEND. HE ONLY WANTED TO HELP US.
WHY DON'T YOU LEAVE HIM ALONE?
JDATES JUST WANTS TO SEE HIM.
HELP US FIND HIM. WE DON'T WANT TO HURT HIM
YOU'RE BOTH LYING.
AND YOU DON'T NEED TO WORRY ABOUT FINDING HIM~
~WORRY ABOUT HIM FINDING YOU.

SUNNH!
WHUNZZ?
UNNH!

OKAY, SO YOU'RE FAST—
—AND YOU'RE NOT STUPID!
OOP!
THAT HURT, HONZU.
NOT AS BAD AS THAT KID AND THAT GIANT HAIRBALL ARE GONNA HURT.

STORYTELLERS

Chuck DIXON
WRITER

Sergio CARIELLO
PENCILER

Rob HUNTER
INKER

Laura VILLARI
COLORIST

Oscar GONGORA
LETTERER

The CrossGen Universe created by Mark Alessi & Gina M. Villa

[illegible] · [illegible]
Vice President of Sales · Chris Oast
Director of Sales, Book Trade · Robert Boyd
Director of Sales, Foreign & Direct Market · [illegible]
Vice President of Education · Beth Widera
Director of Creative Development · Barbara Kesel
Senior Vice President, Legal Counsel · Jennifer Hernandez
Senior Vice President, Chief Financial Officer · Bret Sears
Vice President of Information Technology · Courtland Whitney
Network Administrator · Michael Creed
[illegible] · [illegible]

[illegible]
Office Manager · Shirley Burdett
Senior Vice President of Publishing · [illegible]
Managing Editor · Ian M. Feller
Director of Scheduling · Charlie Dockes
Art Directors · Rick Magyar, Mark Pennington, Laura Martin, Dave Lanphear
Senior Vice President, Creative Services · Pam Davies
Manager of Book Production · Janet Bechtle
Manager of Advertising Production · Sylvia Brett
Creative Services Designers · Randy Martin & [illegible]

CrossGen
33
FEB
CRUX
Chuck Dixon
Sergio Cariello
Larry Molinar
AOL Keyword™: CROSSGEN
03311
00155 98135 9
USA $2 95
crossgen com

PREVIOUSLY, IN CRUX

They were the Atlanteans, a peaceful civilization of artists and philosophers who used their phenomenal skills to build an island utopia.

Now, a hundred millennia have passed and the universe is at war.

The remaining citizens of this fabled land have been reawakened to battle a numberless enemy known only as The Negation.

Battle lines are drawn at the very frontiers of reality as Atlantis rises once more for a fight to the death.

CAPRICIA — Shapeshifter and empath

DANIK — Keeper of the secrets

TUG — Telekinetic strongman

ZEPHYRE — Hypermetabolic intellectual

GALVAN — Manipulator of the electromagnetic spectrum

VERITYN — Seer of all truths

Chuck DIXON
WRITER

Sergio CARIELLO
ILLUSTRATOR

Larry MOLINAR
COLORIST

Special thanks to
Chris Garcia & Justin Ponsor

Dave LANPHEAR
LETTERER

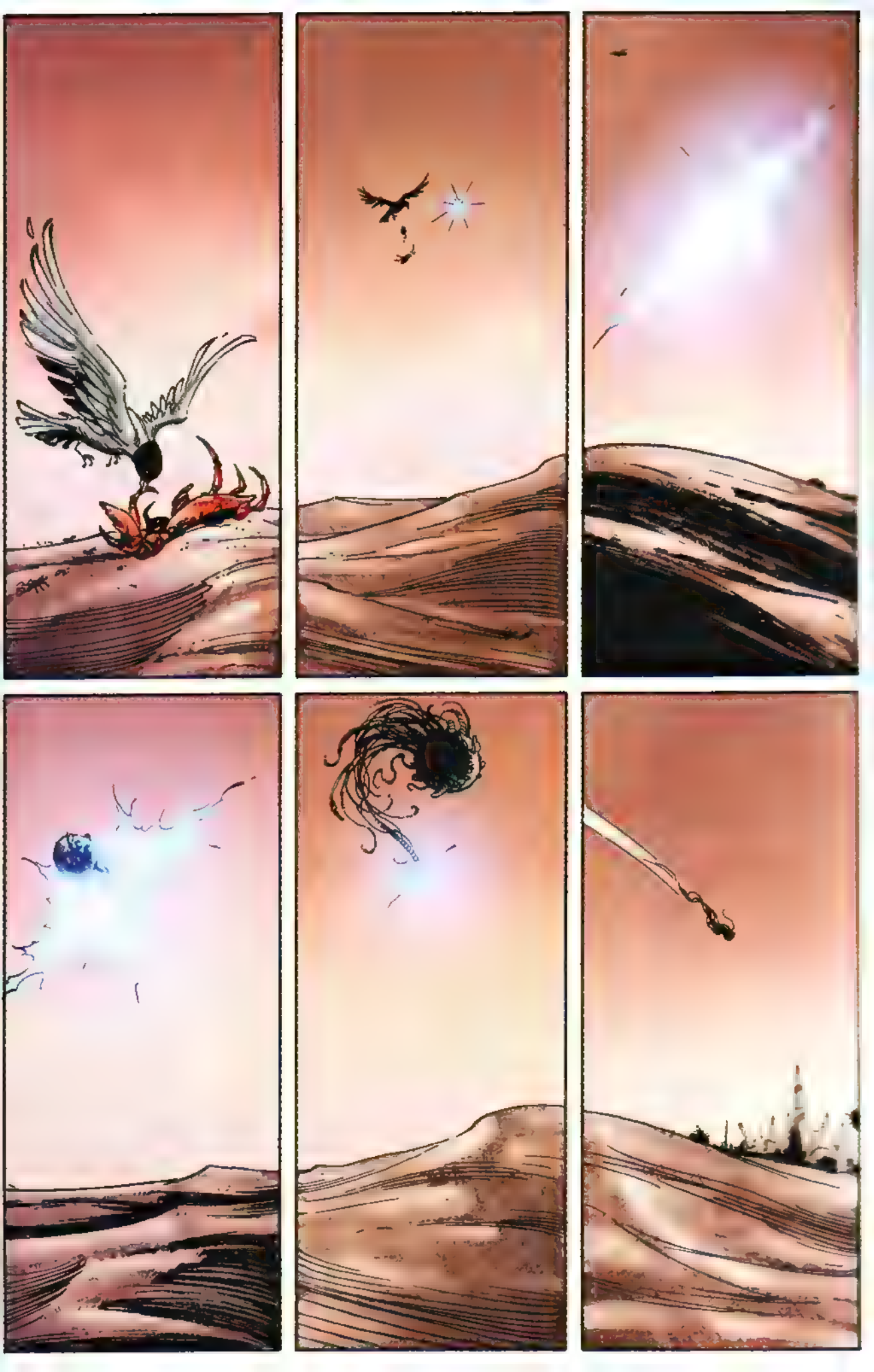
Cover by
Sergio Cariello
Rob Hunter &
Laura Villari

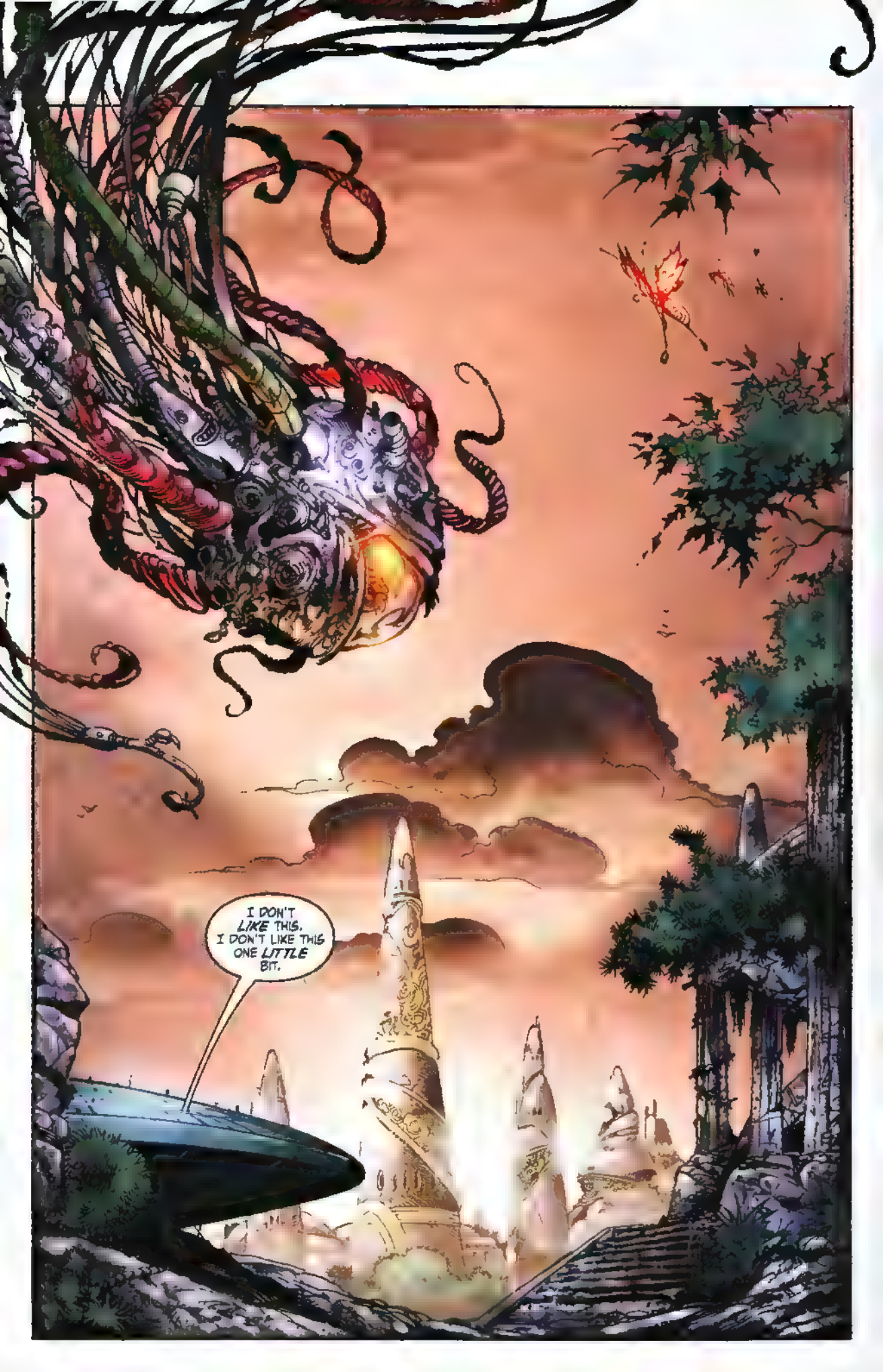
President & Chief Executive Officer · **Mark Alessi**
Vice President of Sales · **Chris Oarr**
Director of Sales, Foreign & Direct Market · **James Breithaupt**
Vice President of Education · **Beth Widera**
Director of Creative Development · **Barbara Kesel**
Senior Vice President, Legal Counsel · **Jennifer Hernandez**
Senior Vice President, Chief Financial Officer · **Bret Sears**
Network Administrator · **Michael Creed**
Web Master · **Marshall Jessee**
Vice President of Conventions & Facilities · **John Smith**

Office Manager · **Shirley Burdett**
Senior Vice President of Publishing · **Bill Rosemann**
Director of Scheduling · **Charlie Decker**
Art Directors · **Rick Magyar, Mark Pennington, Laura Martin, Dave Lanphear**
Senior Vice President, Creative Services · **Pam Davies**
Manager of Book Production · **Janet Bechtle**
Manager of Advertising Production · **Sylvia Brain**
Creative Services Designer · **Randy Martin**

Crux® Vol. 1, Issue 33, FEBRUARY 2004. FIRST PRINTING. Published by CrossGen Comics, LLC. Office of publication: 4023 Tampa Road, Suite 2400, Oldsmar, Florida 34677. **Crux®**, **CrossGen®**, **CrossGen Comics®**, **CrossGeneration®**, and the **CrossGen sigil®** are registered trademarks of CrossGen Intellectual Property, LLC.

All prominent **Crux®** characters and images are Trademark and Copyright 2003 CrossGen Intellectual Property, LLC. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. The stories, incidents and characters in this publication are fictional. Any similarities to persons living or dead are purely coincidental. With the exception of artwork used for review purposes, none of the contents of this book may be reproduced in any form without the express written consent of CrossGen Comics, LLC. PRINTED IN CANADA.



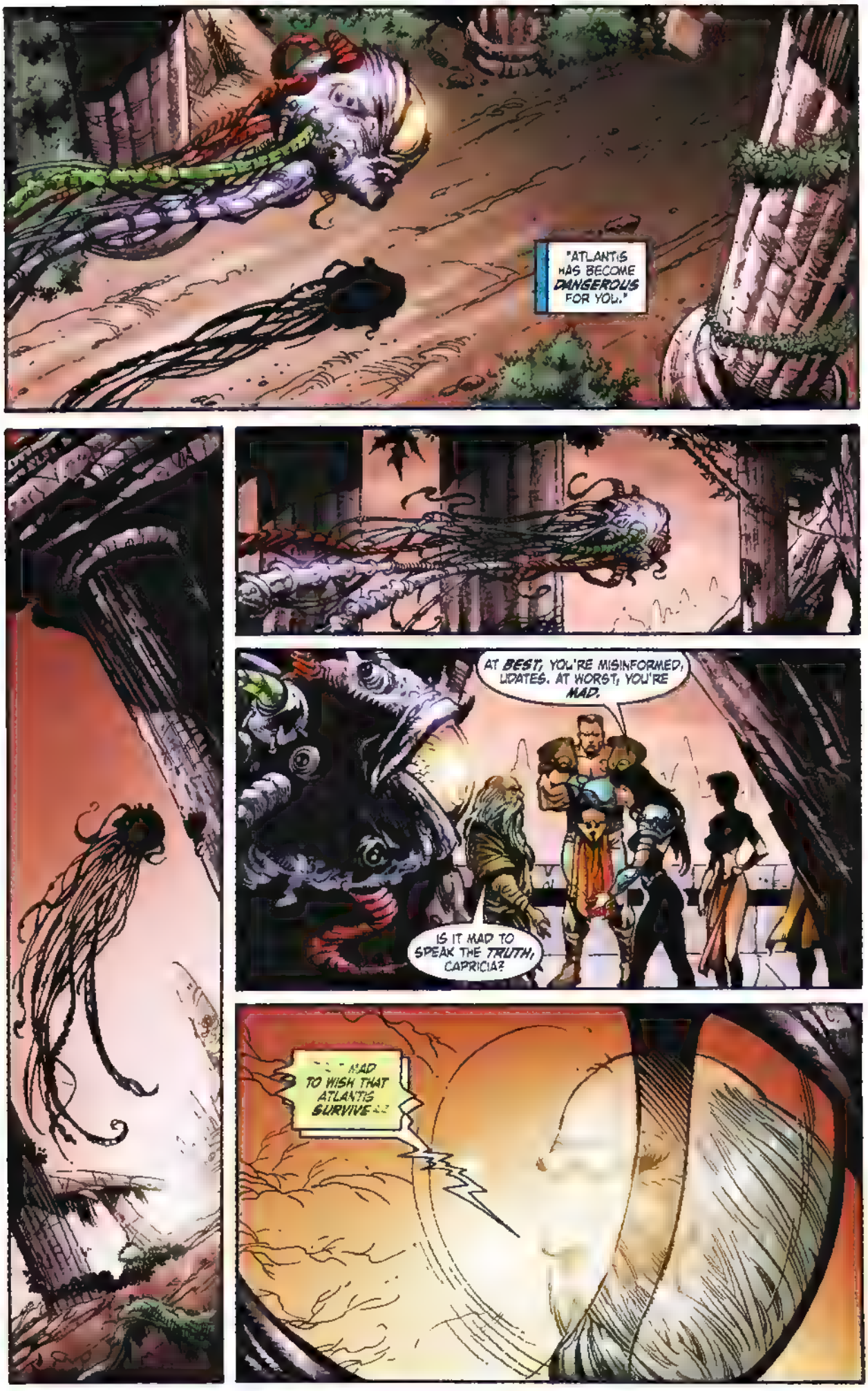

I DON'T *LIKE* THIS. I DON'T LIKE THIS ONE *LITTLE* BIT.

IT'S A TRAP AND YOU KNOW IT'S RHOMLS.
IT TRICKED US BEFORE.
SHUT UP, MONZU. THIS ALIEN IS JUST BIG, NOT SMART.
THAT WAS THE KID, NOT THE GIANT HAIRBALL.

AND NOW THEY'RE BOTH ON THE RUN.
SURE. IN A THOUSAND MILES OF CORRIDORS INSIDE THIS SHIP.
HE'LL FIND THEM.

GAAAH!
WHAT NOW, MONZU?
I STEPPED IN SOMETHING THAT STINKS.
A PRESENT FROM THE HAIRBALL MY FRIEND.

HA HA HA HA
I HATE THIS!
HOW MUCH MORE PUNISHMENT CAN YOUR SHIP TAKE, THRAXIS?
OF COURSE, I'M WORRIED. FOR YOU.


"ATLANTIS HAS BECOME DANGEROUS FOR YOU."
AT BEST, YOU'RE MISINFORMED, LIDATES. AT WORST, YOU'RE MAD.
IS IT MAD TO SPEAK THE TRUTH, CAPRICIA?
MAD TO WISH THAT ATLANTIS SURVIVE

MANY WHO LIVE AMONG US NOW WERE NOT CHOSEN FOR THE TASK OF TENDING TO THE FATE OF EARTH.
THEY ARE HERE ONLY BECAUSE THEY WERE INCAPABLE OF TRANSITION.
THEREFORE, THEY MUST BE CONTROLLED.
IMPRISONED, YOU MEAN.
FOR THEIR OWN PROTECTION AS WELL AS OURS.
BECAUSE THEY'RE TAINTED-- IMPURE?
THIS IS NOT A QUESTION OF RACE OR SPECIES, CAPRICIA.
THOUGH I UNDERSTAND YOUR SENSITIVITY CONSIDERING YOUR--CURRENT CONDITION.
WHAT--?

ARE YOU NOT IMPREGNATED WITH THE CHILD OF A HUMAN?
HOW DARE YOU--
CALM DOWN, CAPRICIA!
YOU'D LIKE TO IMPRISON ME, UDATES?
PERHAPS YOU SHOULD TRY!
CAPRICIA! NO!
NOW WHO IS MAD?
WHY YOU CHOSE TO MATE WITH AN INFERIOR IS YOUR AFFAIR.
YOU CONDESCENDING, IMPERIOUS--
--BAS--
SUNNH!?
IN HER OWN WAY, CAPRICIA IS RIGHT.

YOU HAVE NO *RIGHT* TO ASSUME THE POWERS YOU EXERCISE, UDATES.
AND WHO ARE *YOU?*
I AM *DANIK.* PERHAPS SOME OF YOU *RECALL* ME. I CERTAINLY REMEMBER YOUR *BRILLIANT* SCIENTIFIC THEORIES, UDATES.
BRILLIANT, THOUGH *FLAWED.*
BUT NOW IS NOT THE *TIME* FOR REMINISCENCE.

"WE, ALL OF US, FACE A GRAVE DANGER."
THEY'RE DESTROYING YOUR SHIP, THRAXIS
YOU CAN'T HIDE FOREVER. THEY'LL NEVER STOP LOOKING FOR YOU.
THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY YOU CAN REALLY ESCAPE.
NO.
IT'S TIME WE SPLIT UP, THRAXIS.
YOU HAVE TO LEAVE. IT'S TIME.
I'LL LEAD THEM AWAY.
"IT IS TIME FOR IRON RESOLVE, MY FRIENDS."

THE CREATURES YOU FACED IN BATTLE UPON AWAKENING WERE BUT A VANGUARD--
--ONLY A SMALL FRACTION OF A UNIVERSE OF ENEMIES WHO SEEK OUR ANNIHILATION.
THEY ARE LED BY AN EVIL ENTITY NAMED CHARON. HE WILL NOT STOP UNTIL BOTH PLANES OF EXISTENCE ARE HIS.
WE DEFEATED THEIR INVASION FORCE EASILY, DANIK.
THEY UNDERESTIMATED US. THEY WILL NOT DO SO AGAIN.
AND FOR ALL OF THIS WE HAVE ONLY YOUR WORD?
NO, UDATES--
--YOU MAY HAVE FAR MORE THAN MY WORD.

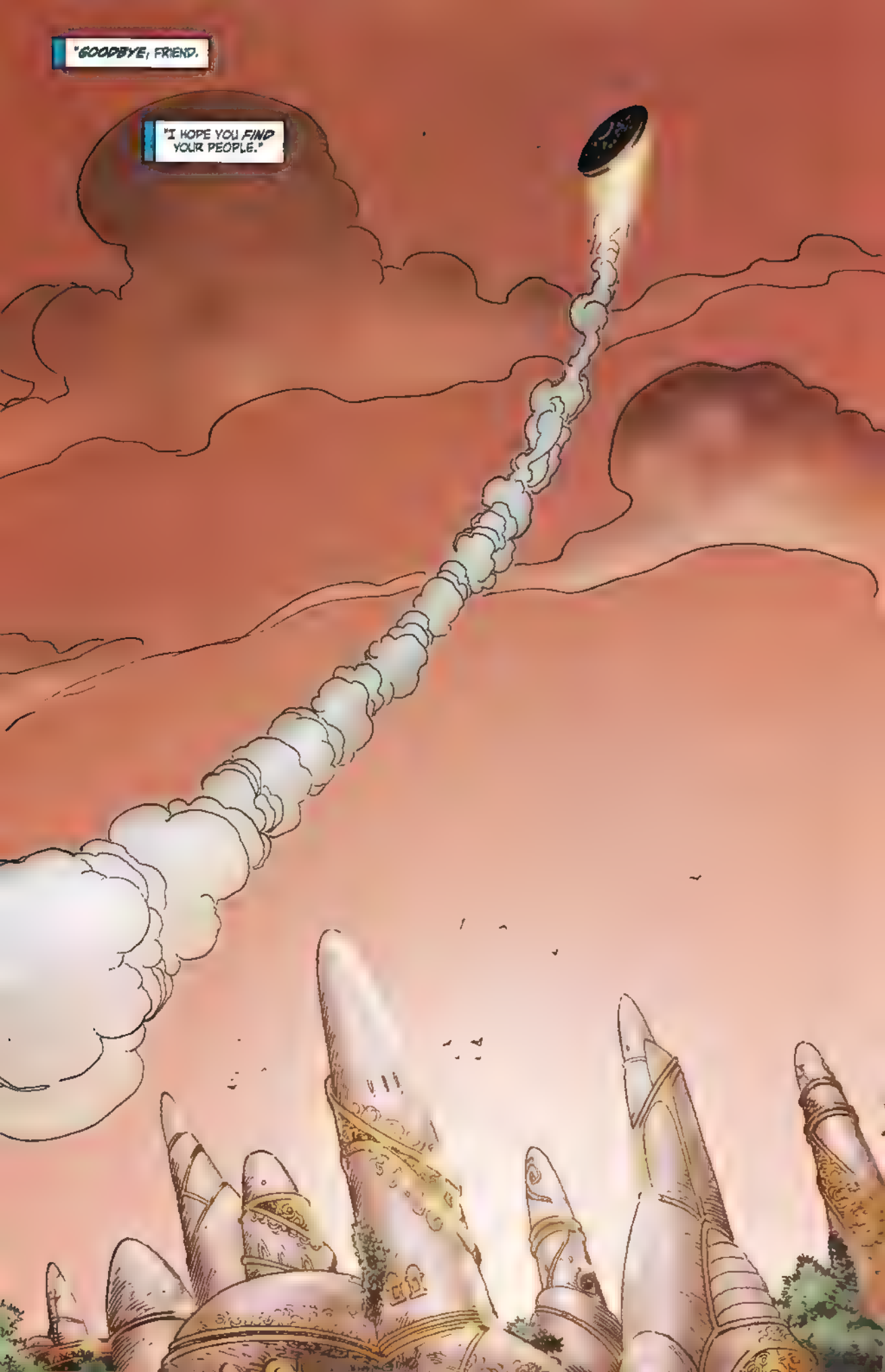
NUMBERLESS WORLDS--
-DARK- SEETHING VIOLENT -
THE NEGATION!

"--HORROR--"
HOW BIG IS THIS WRECK?
THEY CAN'T RUN FOREVER.
YOU GUYS TIRED YET?
VERITYN!
WHERE IS HE?
TIRED. HUNGRY. THIRSTY.
IT'S NOT LIKE YOU'LL FIND US.
YOU AND YOUR FURRY FRIEND CAN COME OUT NOW. WE'RE NOT GOING TO HURT YOU.
IT'S VERITYN, STUPID. YOU CAN'T LIE TO HIM.
OH. RIGHT.
HE'S GOING THIS WAY

UDATES HAS SEEN WHAT LIES IN OUR PATH IN THE FUTURE.
HE KNOWS THE FACE OF OUR ENEMY--THEIR DARK DETERMINATION.
WE MUST GATHER ALL ATLANTEANS TOGETHER. THEY MUST BE TOLD OF THE TASK AHEAD.
WORLDS... WORLDS AND WORLDS OF HORROR...
THEY MUST KNOW OF THE SACRIFICES TO COME.
THEY MUST LEARN OF THE WORLD INTO WHICH THEY HAVE AWAKENED.

SHH!
HEAR THAT?
THE SOUND OF LITTLE FEET.
THERE HE GOES!
IT'S JUST VERITYN!
WHERE'S HIS MONSTER?
YOU REALLY WANT TO RUN INTO THAT THING AGAIN?
BUT WE--
WE'LL GET VERITYN AND MAKE HIM TELL US WHERE HIS FRIEND IS HIDING.
HUH?
WE'RE BACK WHERE WE STARTED!
I TOLD YOU I DIDN'T LIKE THIS.
I WAS THE ONE WHO TOLD YOU!

GUNNH!!
AAAA!
GOODBYE, THRAXIS.


"GOODBYE, FRIEND.
"I HOPE YOU FIND YOUR PEOPLE."

YOU HELPED US FIND OURS.
REMEMBER ATLANTIS. REMEMBER EARTH.
REMEMBER ME.
UHHHHH...
GAAAAH...
I HURT -- EVERYWHERE
SO DO -- I.
"WE STAND TOGETHER FOR THE FIRST TIME--"

--IN A *HUNDRED* MILLENIA.

ALL THAT *REMAINS* OF THE RACE KNOWN AS ATLANTEANS.

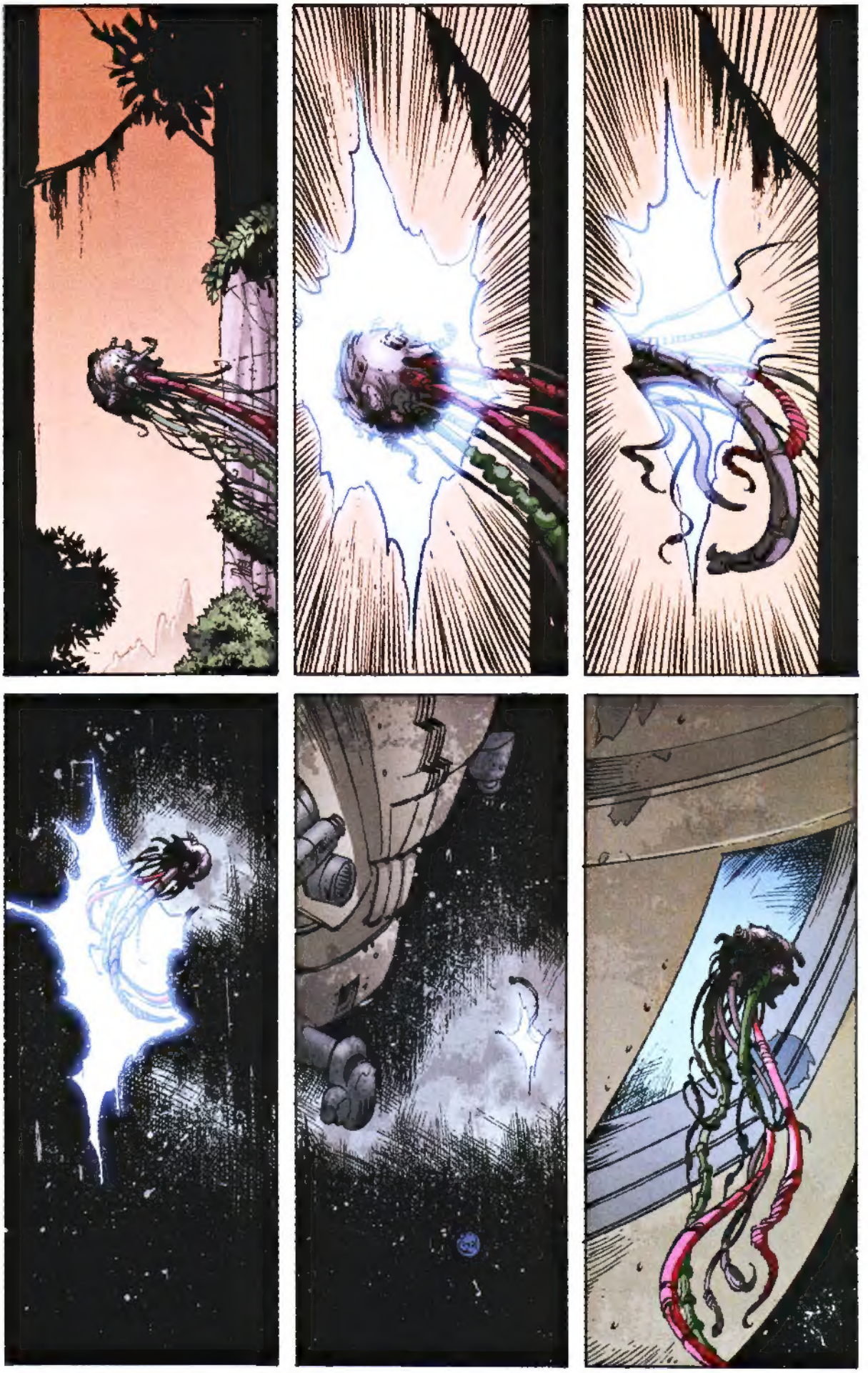
AND WHILE WE ALL LOOKED *FORWARD* TO A DAY WHEN WE WOULD SHEPHERD THE HUMAN RACE TO TRANSITION--

--THAT DAY IS NOT TO BE. A MORE ONEROUS TASK AWAITS US--MERE *SURVIVAL.*

IT IS TO *WAR* WE MUST PROCEED.

AND WAR REQUIRES *WARRIORS.* AND IT IS A WARRIOR WHO SHALL *LEAD* US.

ARISTOPHANES--
LEGEND OF ATLANTIS AND HIGH WARRIOR-PRIEST OF THE HALGADAE.
WE WILL UNITE OUR PRESENT AND OUR PAST TO FACE WHAT COMES.
NOT ONLY MUST WE TURN ASIDE THE EVIL THAT CALLS ITSELF NEGATION--
DESTROY IT--



SO, THE PHILOSOPHERS WILL *FIGHT.*
THAT WILL ONLY MAKE VICTORY *ALL* THAT MUCH SWEETER.
HI, *CRUX* READERS!
WITH BATTLE LINES DRAWN, THIS IS OUR FINAL ISSUE. BUT THE ROLE THAT THE ATLANTEANS WILL PLAY IN THE FUTURE OF THE CROSSGEN UNIVERSE IS NOT OVER! CAPRICIA, TUG, DANIK, AND THE OTHERS WILL LEAP INTO THE FRAY WHEN ***NEGATION WAR*** BEGINS IN MARCH 2004...AS ATLANTIS RISES TO THE CHALLENGE!
CHUCK DIXON

ARISTOPHANES
by Sergio Cariello
& Laura Villari